



# THE INDEPENDENT

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COMMENT PLUS THIS WEEK

SCIENCE DESIGN & ART

## Blair flies in for Drumcree summit

TONY BLAIR last night addressed himself to the Gordian knot of Sunday's annual loyalist parade at Drumcree, flying into Belfast in search of the elusive compromise which might avoid damaging confrontation.

BY DAVID MCKITTRICK  
Ireland Correspondent

That team, the first minister-elect David Trimble and his deputy Seamus Mallon, were last night involved in talks aimed at finding a compromise over Drumcree, the controversial parade which takes place in Mr Trimble's hardline Upper Bann constituency.

This week the Parades Commission announced it was banning the march from the Catholic Garvaghy Road, but

the Orange Order has said it does not regard the commission or the ban as legitimate. The order is reportedly organising protests not just in the Portadown area but all over Northern Ireland.

Mr Blair will be looking for signs of flexibility both among the Orangemen and among Catholic residents, two elements which have in recent years found it impossible to strike a compromise on the issue. A thousand extra troops have already been drafted into North-

ern Ireland as a precaution against a repetition of the widespread disturbances which have often accompanied the parade.

There has been hectic behind-the-scenes activity aimed at breaking the deadlock. The Orange Order has always refused to speak directly to the Catholic residents, ostensibly because it objects to the republican background and prison record of the principal residents' spokesman, Brendan McKenna.

One of many ideas being floated is that if a small march

were allowed along the road the order would subsequently open dialogue with residents. Such an approach, were it acceptable, would have the added appeal of not only resolving this year's problem but of holding out the prospect of a long-lasting solution.

The Taoiseach, Bertie Ahern, said there could be a "horrendous tragedy" if the dispute got out of control. Saying that his government was in touch with Garvaghy residents, he added: "It would be wrong

to say at this stage that there is any single compromise that is gaining any kind of confidence. There are several that are being tried, and one way and another everybody is participating. We are trying to find common ground to bring everybody together."

Mr Trimble said: "At a time of hope for the future of Northern Ireland, society can ill-afford these acts of sectarian madness." The attacks were also condemned by the Orange Order and the Rev Ian Paisley,

who declared: "Those people who have put their hands to such acts should desist at once. Such acts cannot be justified in any circumstances whatsoever."

The church attacks are worrying for the authorities not just in the physical damage they have done but because they appear to be the work of the extremist Loyalist Volunteer Force. This small but unimpeachably violent group declared a ceasefire some weeks ago, surprising everyone by saying

it would not only eschew violence but was ready to de-commission its weapons.

The scepticism with which that announcement was greeted appears to have been justified by the burnings. The group has been active during previous Drumcree controversies, and the fear is that it may now attempt sectarian murder attacks in the event of a parades confrontation.

Church burnings, page 3  
The long march, Review page 9



China's President Jiang Zemin boarding the first aircraft to leave the new Chek Lap Kok airport, Hong Kong, yesterday, after visiting the city to mark the first anniversary of Chinese rule. Later, Bill Clinton's presidential jet, 'Air Force One', was the first passenger aircraft to land at the airport, which was begun under British rule Peter Parks

## Life for foster father who killed Billie-Jo

SION JENKINS was convicted of murdering his foster daughter Billie-Jo yesterday amid furious scenes at Lewes Crown Court, East Sussex. Jenkins' jaw dropped as the jury returned a unanimous verdict on what the judge, Mr Justice Gage, said was "compelling evidence".

The teenager's natural father, Bill Jenkins, and members of his family punched the air and screamed abuse at Sion Jenkins, who was bundled from the dock. Billie-Jo's natural mother, Debbie Jenkins, cried as the judge said Sion Jenkins was a "very considerable danger to the community".

After a three-week trial, the jury of eight men and four women took 10 hours and 40 minutes to convict Jenkins, 40, of bludgeoning Billie-Jo to death with an iron bar as she painted the patio windows of the family home in Hastings last year. After the decision, the court also heard that Jenkins was further accused of "obtaining pecuniary advantage by deception".

By lying about his qualifications to obtain his post as

BY LOUISE JURY

deputy head master and later headmaster-designate of the William Parker school in Hastings. The charge will lie on file.

Mr Justice Gage said the motive for the murder was known only to Jenkins. "That girl was in your care as a foster child. You yourself were a deputy headmaster at the time. These bare facts are sufficient to show what a horrendous crime this was."

Outside the court, Bill Jenkins, a painter and decorator who is not related to Sion said he had never had any doubt of the defendant's guilt.

Sion Jenkins' wife, Lois Jenkins, the mother of his four natural children, who has now parted from him, said in a statement through her solicitor: "It is a terrible thing to realise that the man with whom you have lived for 14 years, the father of your children, is capable of murdering your child. There is no reason, no explanation, for such a pointless waste of a young life."

Killer's façade, page 5  
Ballad of Billie-Jo, Review front

## Iraq used deadly gas on Iranians

IRAQ USED the highly lethal VX gas against Iranian soldiers in one of the fiercest battles of the Iran-Iraq war, a former Iraqi Military Intelligence officer has told *The Independent*.

VX is at the centre of the dispute between UN Weapons Inspectors and the Iraqi government. Iraq says it made only a small quantity of VX. The UN has found evidence that

BY PATRICK COCKBURN

Iraq put the poison gas in warheads and is refusing to lift economic sanctions without further information.

General Waqif al-Sammarai, the former head of Iraqi Military Intelligence, who defected in 1994, says Iraqi technicians aided by German scientists succeeded in producing VX in

late 1987. He revealed for the first time in an interview that Iraq used VX against Iran in the battle of Fao in Southern Iraq in April 1988.

He says: "VX was used in the battle of Fao on 17 and 18 April." This was the critical battle of the Iran-Iraq war. The Iraqi Republican Guard Division successfully counter-attacked Iranian forces dug

in on a desolate peninsula in the far south of Iraq. General Sammarai says the VX was in shells and bombs which "caused the panic among Iranian Revolutionary Guards".

The Iraqis captured Fao in 1986 and held it for two years. They never recovered from the surprise attack executed by Iraq's elite force.

It was known that Iraq used

chemical weapons extensively at the end of its war with Iran, notably mustard and sarin poison gases. This was little criticised in the West at the time, because the US supported Baghdad against Iran. General Sammarai says the Iraqis, who lost at least 50,000 dead and injured from gas attacks, did not have sufficient experience of chemical warfare to

know that VX was being used against them.

The VX was stored at al-Tharthar, a facility north-west of Baghdad, says General Sammarai. He says he did not previously reveal the use of VX by Iraq against Iran because he wanted to do so at a moment most likely to help bring down the government in Baghdad.

Deadly gas secret, page 13

## Cool Britannia finds itself frozen out of favour



AS IN LIFE, so in ice cream. Chris Smith, the Secretary of State for Culture, declares that he has always hated the phrase Cool Britannia. Tony Blair assures leading arts figures that he too has wider interests than the pop and fashion of Cool Britannia. And now Cool Britannia the ice cream has been killed off by political controversy. The strawberry and chocolate ice which is widely said to

BY DAVID LISTER

have given its name to the Cool Britannia phenomenon is being pulled from production by the manufacturers Ben & Jerry's.

The company said it was fed up with its ice cream being "hijacked" by pundits to describe the apparent frenzy of British creativity and linked to a debate about the state of the nation which it was "not very comfort-

able with". The name and ingredients of the ice cream were coined by an entrant in a competition to come up with a new flavour in 1996. Since then the phrase has become a huzzword synonymous with British chic. Ian Hills, a spokesman for the US-based firm, said they were ice cream makers and not in the business of making "convoluted cultural observations". They wanted to make way for

new products and had decided to ditch Cool Britannia to end the association.

He said: "Since Cool Britannia's launch it's become an everyday term, hijacked by politicians and cultural pundits. We never thought this would be the case and it's certainly not what we're about."

Mr Chris Smith has said in a new book that he always disliked the phrase. Tony Blair this

week entertained leading arts figures at 10 Downing Street to assure them of his interest in the higher arts.

But in fact the genesis of Cool Britannia goes back much further. The phrase was coined in the lyrics of a 1988 song by the cult skids group the Bonzo Dog Doo Dah Band. The lyric ran: "Cool Britannia/Britannia take a trip/Britons ever, ever shall be hip...".

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Unwanted pregnancies were cut by a third among women with a home supply of the morning-after pill Page 4

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All local authorities should be able to "parachute in" heads with "street fighting" skills to turn round failing schools, Ofsted said yesterday Page 9

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## Israel flouts Gaza strip deal

Israel is flouting an agreement designed to allow Palestinians to travel freely between the Gaza Strip and the West Bank Page 15

## Four dead in Budapest bomb

Budapest gang wars reached new heights when a car bomb in the heart of the downtown shopping area killed four people and wounded 20. Page 13

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A bitter trade row was threatening to erupt last night between Switzerland and the United States after two US states said they were planning to push ahead with a boycott of Swiss banks Page 18

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## Staunton returns to Anfield

A salary of £20,000 a week has lured the defender Steve Staunton back to Liverpool, seven years after he left to join Aston Villa Page 24

## Smith chairs new sports cabinet

The Sports Council is to gain direct access to funding for the first time, working under a "Sports Cabinet" chaired by Chris Smith. Page 27

## FRIDAY REVIEW

24-PAGE BROADSHEET SECTION

## Donald Macintyre

Blair almost certainly sees a trade-off between strong defences - and public opinion on Europe. The stronger Britain is in its own right, the less the British electorate will fear the EU Page 3

## Paddy Ashdown

The violence in Kosovo is escalating daily and if we wait too long we will be watching a regional conflagration this time next month, or even this time next week. Page 4

## Philip Henscher

It won't be long before there are openly gay bishops, generals, even footballers. And who cares? Page 5

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## Norway to call for Sellafield closure

NORWEGIAN ANGER over radioactive discharges from the Sellafield nuclear plant reaching Scandinavian shores will be expressed in a face-to-face meeting on Monday between Tony Blair and the Norwegian Prime Minister.

Kjell Bondevik asked for the meeting six months ago, shortly after Norwegian scientists found an eight-fold increase of the radioactive element Technetium-99 along their coasts - and traced it directly back to Sellafield.

In a 40-minute talk, Mr Bondevik, an ordained minister of the Church of Norway who has been prime minister since last October, is likely to renew Scandinavian pressure on Mr Blair to halt the discharges from Sellafield - which would mean the closure of the plant.

Technetium-99 is a by-product of the reprocessing of spent nuclear power station fuel, which is Sellafield's principal activity. It has a half-life of 213,000 years, which means that it will persist in the environment virtually indefinitely.

The levels so far detected in Norway are not dangerous to humans, but there is concern that they may grow: T-99 accumulates in shellfish. Last summer it was found in lobsters off Sellafield and then in December in lobsters off Norway.

The disclosure that the radioactivity was being carried by marine currents 500 miles around the top of Scotland to Scandinavia caused anger in the Nordic countries. In March Anna Lindh, Environment Minister of Sweden and chair of the Nordic countries environment ministers' group, told Britain's Environment Minister Michael

By MICHAEL MCCARTHY  
Environment Correspondent

Meacher, in a letter of complaint, that the discharges were polluting some of the world's most valuable fishing grounds.

Last month the Norwegian government submitted a tough resolution expressing concern about Sellafield and the nuclear plant at Dounreay in Scotland for a meeting in Portugal later this month which is expected to signal a major clean-up of the marine environment of the north-east Atlantic.

The meeting of the Oslo-Paris commission (OSPAR) at Sintra near Lisbon is likely to see Britain isolated among the 16 OSPAR member states. The UK is unwilling to go along with a proposal to bring radioactive waste discharges to the sea from nuclear plants down to "close to zero".

The refusal will present a tough political and personal problem for John Prescott, the Deputy Prime Minister and Environment Secretary, who will be at Sintra to sign the proposed marine clean-up treaty on behalf of Britain.

Mr Prescott, a former seaman and still an enthusiastic diver, spent much of his early political career campaigning against the dumping of nuclear waste in the sea: in 1983 he made a protest about it in Downing Street dressed in a frogman's suit. A Downing Street spokesman confirmed last night that the meeting between Mr Blair and Mr Bondevik would take place and said: "It is probable that the issue of radioactivity will be raised. It is clearly an issue they are concerned about."

A set of 17th century orthopaedic armour is polished up for a display at London's Science Museum of treasures from regional museums. The exhibition runs until 1 November  
Neville Elder

## Let couples choose sex of babies, says fertility doctor

A FERTILITY doctor who is offering to let British couples choose the sex of their baby if they travel to the United States will today call for regulations in Britain to be changed to allow the treatment here.

Paul Rainsbury, who runs the fertility clinic at the private BUPA Roding hospital in Essex, said he had already sent eight couples for treatment in Italy and Saudi Arabia but had now linked up with the Genetics and IVF Institute in Fairfax, Virginia, which allows sex selection for social reasons. The cost is £3,000 to £10,000.

In Britain, selection is permitted only in families with a history of gender-linked disease such as Duchenne's muscular dystrophy, which affects only

By JEREMY LAURANCE  
Health Editor

males. The Human Fertilisation and Embryology Authority has licensed four clinics for this.

Mr Rainsbury, who attracted controversy last year when he announced his sex selection service, is due to speak at a debate, Babies by Design, at the Ideal Health Show being held in London tonight as part of the NHS's 50th anniversary celebrations. It has been organised by the Wellcome Trust and the Medical Research Council to stimulate discussion of the ethics of "designer babies".

Mr Rainsbury said yesterday that couples who already had several children of the same sex should be able to "bel-

ance their families" by choosing the sex of their next child.

"I would like to see the regulations changed. We are doing surrogacy and allowing infertile couples to have children. These are far bigger ethical minefields than sex selection. At the end of the day it is going to come down to couples voting with their feet."

He said he "would not normally" consider couples for treatment who had fewer than three children of the same sex. "If a couple phone up and say they are starting a family and want a boy or a girl I would say that is not on."

The technique involves sorting sperm using a laser - the x-chromosome female sperm are marginally heavier than the y-

chromosome male sperm - and injecting them into eggs removed from the ovaries of the woman. The sex of the resulting embryos is then checked after three to four days before those of the chosen gender are replaced in the womb.

The Human Fertilisation and Embryology Authority last night said that producing babies could not be regarded as a purely commercial venture.

Christine Gosden, professor of medical genetics at the University of Liverpool and a member of the authority said: "Children should be valued for themselves and not for their sex. We do not believe that children are commodities that can be selected as if from a supermarket shelf."

## Dome faces £3.2m writ from German roof firm

PETER MANDELSON'S Millennium Dome organisation was accused of lacking millennial spirit by a German company which yesterday took out a second writ against it.

Koch Hightex, which was originally selected to build the roof for the dome, is claiming £3.2m damages for breach of contract to add to a £1.2m writ it issued last year.

By BARRIE CLEMENT  
Labour Editor

The legal action follows the decision by the New Millennium Dome Company to scrap plans for a PVC roof supplied by Koch and opt for a tougher Teflon-coated skin provided by a Japanese business.

Officials made the decision after environmentalists ob-

jected to the use of plastic. The dome company however said the decision was taken because the Government insisted that the structure should remain for more than 20 years and form a "lasting legacy". Originally the dome, at Greenwich, east London, was to have been demolished after a few years.

The £3.2m is being sought as

compensation for loss of profit, time and labour spent on the project and cancellation of materials and insurance. Koch also said it was involved in an expensive hedge against movements in the exchange rate between sterling and the Deutschmark. The £1.2m writ was issued over the allegedly "completely unfair and prejudicial manner" in which the sec-

ond contract was awarded to another company.

Koch Hightex said it had not been paid any money under the contract, worth £8.15m and awarded in May last year.

Michael Koch, chief executive of the German company said it was not clear why the business was given to rivals Birdair, given that Koch Hightex was the world's largest manu-

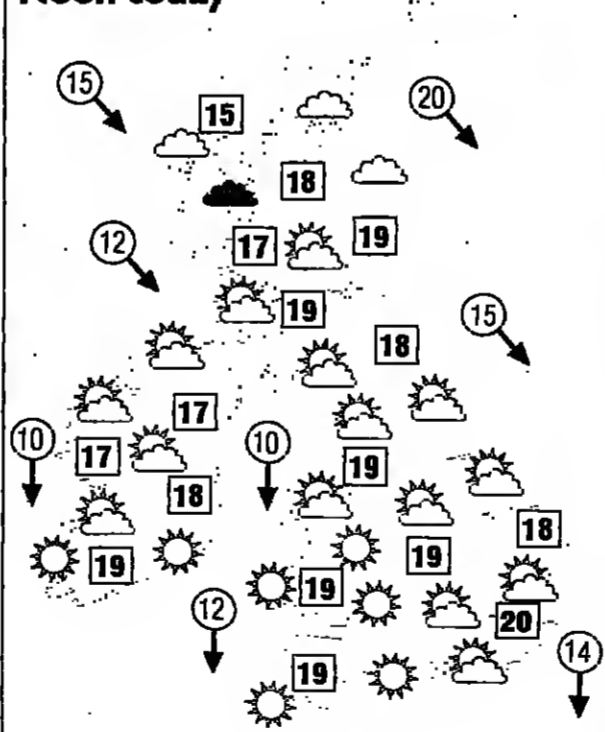
facturer of Teflon-coated glass-fibre.

A spokesman for the dome company said that a second writ had not been received, but it would "vigorously defend" any allegation of breach of contract.

He said the original contract contained provisions covering compensation if it was terminated.

## BRITAIN TODAY

## Noon today



## OUT LOOK FOR TODAY

Much of the country will have warm with spells of sunshine. The best of the sun will be across south-west England and south Wales. Northern England, north Wales and Northern Ireland will have longer cloudy periods with the risk of a shower along the eastern side of England. Some high cloud will also spread across East Anglia and the south-east this afternoon. Northern Scotland will be mainly cloudy with spells of light rain, but the south will see some warm sunshine.

## NEXT FEW DAYS

Scotland will be cloudy on Saturday with spells of rain. Most of the country will be warmer, particularly south-east England and there will be good sunny spells. On Sunday it will remain warm, although showers across Scotland will push south, reaching the Midlands later and it will be breezy everywhere. Monday and Tuesday will be cooler. North and west Scotland will be cloudy but sunny spells will dominate elsewhere.

## LIGHTING UP TIMES

Belfast	22.02	to	04.54
Birmingham	21.33	to	04.51
Bristol	21.30	to	05.00
Glasgow	22.04	to	04.39
London	21.20	to	04.50
Manchester	21.40	to	04.47
Newcastle	21.47	to	04.34

## HIGH TIDES

	AM	HT	PM	HT
London	09:16	6.0	21:39	5.7
Liverpool	06:36	7.5	19:17	7.4
Ayr	01:59	10.0	14:37	9.8
Hull (Albert Dock)	01:32	7.0	13:53	7.1
Greenock	07:18	2.9	20:43	2.7
Dun Laoghaire	07:30	3.4	20:06	3.3

## AIR QUALITY

	NO <sub>2</sub>	Pollan	Mod	HT	Gd	O <sub>3</sub>
London	Mod	Mod	High	Gd		
S. England	Mod	Mod	High	Gd		
Wales	Mod	Mod	High	Gd		
C. England	Mod	Mod	High	Gd		
W. Scotland	Mod	Mod	High	Gd		
N. Ireland	Gd	Mod	Moderate	Gd		

## SUN &amp; MOON

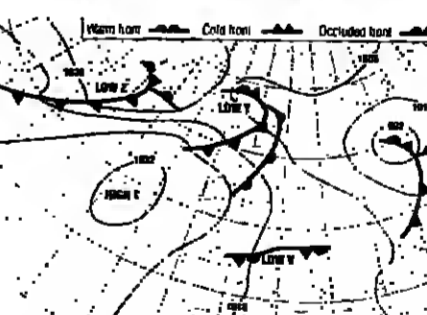
Sun rises:	04:49
Sun sets:	21:20
Moon rises:	14:57
Moon sets:	01:24
FULL MOON JULY 9TH	

## WEATHERLINE

For the latest forecasts dial 0800 5009  
followed by the two digits for your area indicated by the map (right)  
Source: The Met Office. Calls charged at 30p per min (inc VAT)

## THE WORLD

## ATLANTIC CHART, NOON TODAY



Complex Low V will move east and fill. Lows Y &amp; Z will continue to run south-east. High T will remain stationary.

## THE WORLD YESTERDAY

Most recent available figure at noon local time											
Aberdeen	31	88	Chicago	28	79	Lima	18	64	Perth	15	59
Algiers	31	88	Cincinnati	28	79	London	21	70	Port Stanley	16	61
Amman	30	86	Colonge	16	64	Los Angeles	21	70	Portland	16	61
Antwerp	18	64	Copenhagen	19	66	Lyons	23	72	Reykjavik	12	54
Athens	31	88	Copenhagen	19	66	Madrid	20	68	Riyadh	13	55
Auckland	12	63	Dakar	28	84	Manila	20	68	Riyadh	13	55
Bahia	24	75	Dakar	28	84	Medina	29	84	Riyadh	13	55
Bahamas	24	75	Darwin	25	77	Mexico City	20	68	Riyadh	13	55
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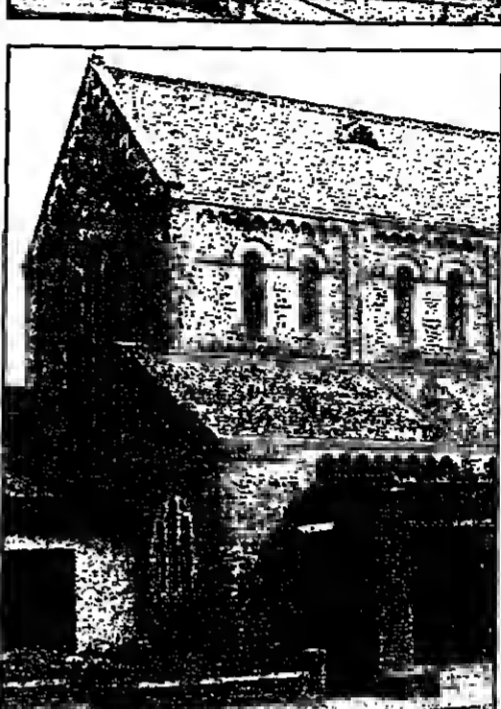
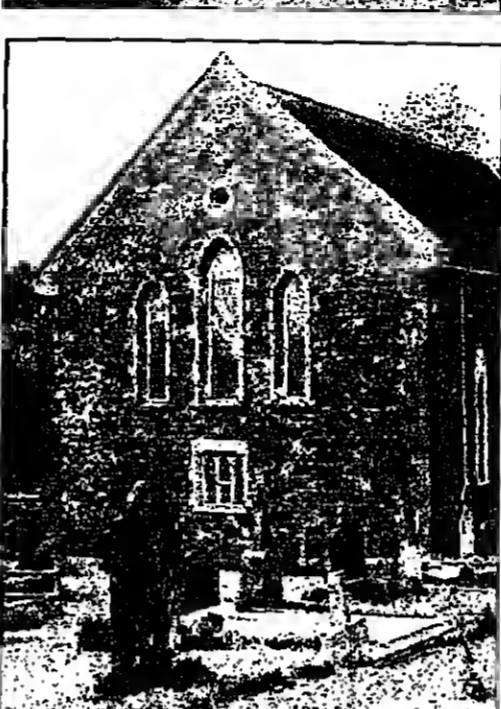
## YESTERDAY

Most recent available figure at noon local time  
KEY: C: cloudy; Cl: clear; F: rain; Fg: fog; H: haze; M: mist; R: rain; S: sunny; Sl: sleet; Sh: showers; Sn: snow; Th: thunder.

## BRITISH ISLES WEATHER

	C	Cl	F	Fg	H	M	R	S	Sl	Sh	Sn	Th
Aberdeen	C											
Anglesey	C											
Ayr	C											
Belfast	C											
Birmingham	C											
Bristol	C											
Cardiff	C											
Bournemouth	C											
Brighton	C											
Bristol	C											
Cardiff	C											
Carlisle	C											
Dover	C											
Dublin	C											
Edinburgh	C											
Exeter	C											
Glasgow	C											
Gurnsey	C											

## Ulster arson attacks: Blair visits scene of devastation after Catholic churches are damaged by Loyalist terrorists



Nine of the churches damaged in the wave of overnight attacks. Top row: St Joseph's Chapel, Lisburn; St James's, Aldergrove; Church of the Immaculate Conception, Leirtrim; Mary, Queen of Peace, Drumnacaddy. Bottom row: Killyman Chapel, Dungannon; Mullavilly Chapel, Tandragee; St Paul's Chapel, Laurencetown; St Columcille's, East Belfast; St Teresa's Chapel, Banbridge. *Pacemaker*

# Sectarian hate that strikes at the sacred heart of a community

BY NICOLE VEASH  
and KIM SENGUPTA

ST JAMES'S Chapel couldn't be in a prettier spot. Set in the peaceful County Antrim countryside next to Loch Neagh, surrounded by milk herds and well-tended cottage gardens, on any other day it would have been the picture of tranquillity. But not yesterday.

Yesterday, St James's was in ruins, the sacred heart of the community burnt out by a sectarian hatred which persists in destroying the dreams of the majority of Ulster's people.

It was one of 10 churches which had been targeted and set alight in a night of fires as tensions rise, and the clock ticks away for Sunday's Drumcree march. The sheer scale of the attacks have left the people of Ulster, who have become used to almost all aspects of violence, in a state of shock.

The 18th century white-washed building, which celebrated its bi-centenary almost ten years ago, is framed by a beautiful garden of fir trees and gravestones laid heavy with bundles of flowers.

Mary Kelly, 24, is one of those devastated by the arson attack and as she stared at derelict vestry, heavy with ash, tears came to her eyes.

"Just two weeks ago," she said "you could have seen how beautiful this chapel looks. My sister got married here and the place was full of flowers. The whole village was so happy but now it looks like that will be the last wedding we will have in St James's for a long while."

"It is just unbearable to see the place looking like this." The Kelly family own the homely Grove Bar, next door to the chapel. "Each night my daddy goes across to lock up the chapel," says Mary. "He's a very devout man and always spends some time in prayer every evening. He locked up last night, like it was any other day and then this happened. He is devastated this has disrupted our way of life."

It was at 1.30am when the Kellys woke to find the little chapel ablaze. They roused the rest of the village and gathered to watch firefighters tackle the blaze for three hours. It wasn't until the small hours that they went to bed, shocked at the totally unexpected attack on their community.

In the Kelly's Bar residents had gathered throughout the day to talk through the shock and upset of last night. Ethel Bush, a Protestant is one of many horrified at the unprovoked attack. "I might be from

## Peace? Incidents since the referendum

31 May: In Lurgan, an RUC patrol comes under petrol-bomb attack. For the second night in a row, riots in Garvaghy Road, Portadown.

1 June: Charles Strain, 29, from Carrickfergus was killed. He was forced to flee from the Silverstream area of north Belfast after a severe beating.

2-3 June: Rioting on the Mullaghmore estate in Omagh.

6 June: A 26-year-old man was shot as he walked through Bangor's Kilcooley estate.

7 June: A 26-year-old man was shot and injured in both legs in Eliza Street

in the Markets area of central Belfast.

8 June: A man warned by police to take a UFF murder threat seriously. Raymond McCord, whose son was killed last year by the UFF was told an attempt on his life was "imminent".

12 June: A gunman opens fire on a Sinn Féin activist in Belfast. Paddy McAvoy, an election worker, narrowly escaped injury when four shots were fired at him.

13 June: A 19-year-old man was shot in the legs in west Belfast.

14 June: Petrol-bombers attacked a stately home in Ardmore Rd. London-

derry. In another incident in Londonderry a car was driven at Rosemount RUC station, on the fringe of the Creggan, and set on fire. Petrol bombs were also thrown at the base.

29 June: Police and troops come under petrol-bomb attack in Lurgan, Co. Armagh. Trouble broke out on the nationalist Killybegs estate after police seized 4th of Semtex and a quantity of ammunition during a search.

30 June: Punishment beating on the nationalist Ballycoleman estate in Strabane during which a woman and her three daughters were attacked by six men wielding baseball bats and a hammer.

a different religion, but I've loved that wee chapel for many years. We live hand in hand in this community. I have had catholic friends all my life. We do stand as one. I even cleaned that chapel for Mary's sisters wedding."

As the day wore on residents drifted in and out of the Kelly's bar and walked around the little chapel surveying the extent of the damage. Alphonsus McIlaverty, who

has tended the tiny graveyard everyday for near on 20 years, stood surveying the devastated scene. He said: "I'm absolutely desperate. We all work to make this a beautiful chapel and look what these people have done."

Billy and Florrie McAteer have lived in the parish for 50 years throughout their married life. "My father and mother are buried in this graveyard," said Billy, pointing to a well

tended plot with a symbolic bunch of yellow flowers heaped on it.

"About 200 people come to Mass every Sunday. We are a devout community and we believe in God but things will never be the same again. There was a strong family tradition here. Most of us tend to stay in this spot. We like it here. I'm 72 now and I first came to Mass here when I was seven. This chapel is part of me."

More villagers gathered round the now closed church gates to see Tony Blair and the Secretary of State Mo Mowlam visit the wrecked chapel. In this time of turmoil the whole village want to bear words of reassurance. They want the Prime Minister to tell them that peace is still strong and that this is not the way of things to come.

He shook hands with many and then said: "This is an act of destruction, this is not going

to give the people a future. The vast majority want to put the violence behind them. This does not represent the people of Northern Ireland."

And as if to prove him right, the Protestant parishioners from a dozen churches on the Newtownards Road, leading out of Belfast were gathering at St Columcille's to express their sorrow and show their revulsion at the sectarian fire attack on this Catholic church.

At this church a window had been smashed, petrol poured into the sacristy and set ablaze by fire lighters. The room has been badly burnt and the roof has been scorched. The repair bill for damages could come to as much as £10,000, but the real damage has been to the hope and trust which seemed, for a while at least, to be bridging Northern Ireland's division after the Good Friday Agreement.

Harold Miller, the church of Ireland Bishop for Down and Drummore came to St Columcille's accompanied by Bishop Michael Dallat, the Catholic Auxiliary Bishop of Down. Also there yesterday afternoon was Campbell Young, an elder of the neighbouring Belmont Presbyterian Church.

A silver-haired, soft-spoken, middle-aged man, he looked at the damage and shook his head. "How can people do this? What a terrible thing to do. I just came here to show my support and to see if there was anything I could do. The overwhelming majority of people around here feel exactly the same way I do. We are very sorry."

Father Brian Tumulty, the priest at St Columcille's, could have been one of the victims. He was in his home just six feet away from the sacristy when it was set ablaze just after 11.30 on Wednesday night.

"Thankfully the fire brigade is just two minutes away and they got here very very quickly, otherwise I'm afraid it would have spread," he said.

The repair at St Columcille's is being carried out by a team under Jack Rahilly. He said: "I'm a Catholic and I employ 19 people who follow different churches. We work perfectly happily together. We have never had any problems."

Among the workers was Sean Reilly, whose daughter Karen was shot dead by Private Lee Clegg. He was working alongside a Protestant workmate clearing up the damage. "Most people simply want to live and earn a living in peace," he said. "The people who started the fire do not represent us and they never will."

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Billie-Jo killing: Foster father's carefully constructed image revealed as sham as jury returns guilty verdict

# Killer who hid behind facade of a decent citizen

CLEAN CUT and composed, Sion Jenkins sat in his dark suit and correctly knotted tie, looking the epitome of respectability. It was hard to believe he had anything to do with the bloody scenes of carnage on the police video.

But appearances can be deceptive. Sion Jenkins was not exactly what he seemed. He was the headmaster designate of a well-respected boys' comprehensive. But he had lied about his qualifications to get the post.

His neighbours knew him as a churchgoing, happily married man with four natural daughters, prepared to foster a deprived child, Billie-Jo. But he viciously beat his wife, Lois, and disciplined his children with a stick.

The jury was to know none of this as they sat at Lewes Crown Court in East Sussex. Certainly the Crown wanted to present something of this other side of Jenkins, but in legal arguments many such details were ruled inadmissible.

So the eight men and four women were asked to believe that this middle-class professional man with no previous convictions had committed a murder which the acting police surgeon described as the worst in his 26 years' experience.

Jenkins, the son of a former policeman, will be 41 next month. He went to school at the Glasgow Academy, although he allowed his colleagues to believe he had attended the more prestigious Gordonstoun.

A statement issued yesterday by East Sussex County Council said he did not, as he had claimed, attend Kent University and he had not obtained a BA honours degree, a post-graduate certificate in education, an advanced diploma from the Open University or an MSc in education management from King's College, London.

Instead, he had a basic teacher training qualification from Nonington College of physical education in Kent.

Nevertheless, by his mid-thirties, Jenkins had won the post

BY LOUISE JURY

of deputy head at the William Parker School in Hastings. The family were in the process of fostering Billie-Jo and it was agreed that she would go with them when they moved from their London home in 1992.

When he was arrested after Billie-Jo's death in February last year, Jenkins had been appointed successor to the headmaster who was due to retire.

In 1984, Jenkins had married Lois Ball, a religious, shy young woman who was training to be a social worker. She was overwhelmed by his domineering personality. They have four daughters - Annie, 13, Lottie, 11, Esther, 10, and Maya, 8.



Billie-Jo Jenkins: Deprived

A Tory traditionalist, who once stood as a Conservative candidate in local elections, he had a short temper and was a strict disciplinarian. Jenkins hit his wife, and regularly told her she was worthless and dependent on him. The children were all impeccably well-behaved - small wonder, when anyone who offended was taken to a separate room to be hit with a "naughty stick". Talking to police after her father's arrest, Lottie, then 10, was surprised to hear that some children were never struck at all.

Police believe Jenkins went far further than acceptable discipline. On one occasion, a family friend, Peter Gaimster, witnessed Jenkins kicking Billie-Jo in the ankle after she had



Sion Jenkins arriving at Lewes Crown Court yesterday to hear the jury's guilty verdict

John Voos

sprained it. Mr Gaimster's statement to police - ruled inadmissible as evidence - said that passing an open door he had seen Jenkins throw Billie-Jo violently on her bed.

"I saw Sion walk towards Billie-Jo ... (he) then violently kicked Billie-Jo against her injured leg. He looked round and saw me standing there ... walked over to the door and calmly closed it. The subject was never mentioned again."

The day of Billie-Jo's death came on 15 February last year at the end of a half-term holiday. She and Annie were doing chores to earn pocket money. Lottie was at a music lesson and Lois took the two youngest girls to the beach.

Jenkins collected Lottie from her lesson; she was anticipating helping Annie wash the family cars.

But Sion snapped, battered Billie-Jo to death and fled. He took Annie and Lottie with him on a mad drive twice around the block allegedly to buy white spirit. The prosecution said the journey was an attempt to distance himself from the murder. On their return, Lottie discovered Billie-Jo's battered body.

Probably no one will ever know exactly what had happened that afternoon. The most likely guess is that Billie-Jo was playing her music loudly as she painted the windows. Jenkins turned it down. As he turned to join Annie and Lottie, Billie-Jo defied him and turned the music back up. In the altercation that followed, Jenkins snapped and grabbed the tent spike that was lying around.

"Jenkins controlled every-

thing about his life and the life of his family, but occasionally lost it," the detective said. "He lost control on 15 February, but from the minute he dropped that tent spike he was in control again. He really believes he didn't murder Billie-Jo because he has blanked it from his mind."

Unusually for someone on a murder charge, Jenkins was on bail throughout for £250,000 raised by his father and Sir Tom Farmer, the millionaire owner of Kwik-fit who was a family friend.

Maybe as he walked through the crowds outside the small

Sussex court room, Jenkins had convinced himself of his innocence. But as he starts a life sentence in prison today, he will have plenty of time to consider what really happened.

Detective Superintendent Jeremy Paine of Sussex police said yesterday: "Sion Jenkins

has never accepted anything that we have put to him. He appears to want to just blank out anything that suggests he might have been in any way devious or dishonest or done anything wrong."

Ballad of Billie-Jo, Friday Review front

## CLUE TO MURDER

THE evidence that led to Sion Jenkins' conviction was discovered by a forensic scientist four days after Billie-Jo's death. Adrian Wain phoned to tell the police he had found 150 microscopic spots of blood on the trousers and jacket Jenkins wore on the day of the killing.

Tests showed this "mist" of droplets, described as being like an aerosol spray, could only have been found on someone very close when a blunt object was striking wet blood.

It was the evidence Sussex Police needed. Asked whether they already had suspicions, Detective Superintendent Jeremy Paine said yesterday: "The first people you have to rule out in this sort of investigation are those very close to the victim. We had to look at the family very closely."

Jenkins had already changed details in his story in the days after the killing. He also held a press conference where his cool demeanour contrasted with his wife's Lois's distress.

The telephone call from Mr Wain was the "clear moment", Superintendent Paine said, when Jenkins became prime suspect.

Jenkins' defence team argued that the blood stains were created when he was tending Billie-Jo after she was found lying on the patio of the family home.

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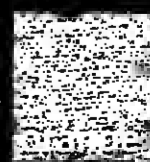
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## IN BRIEF

### Tax on supermarket parking places dropped by ministers

PLANS TO tax supermarket parking places have been dropped by ministers fearful of a motorists' backlash, according to Whitehall sources.

Treasury officials vetoed the plans, arguing that the scheme would not raise much cash and would be complicated to implement. One estimate considered that a £100 annual charge on each space would only raise £200m for the Chancellor.

However, local authorities will be empowered to impose charges on firms with large car parks and use the money collected to fund public transport schemes.

### Ecstasy supplier, 14, stays free

A 14-YEAR-OLD boy who handed an ecstasy tablet to a friend who became Britain's youngest ever victim of the drug yesterday escaped detention at the High Court in Edinburgh. The boy, who cannot be named for legal reasons, will instead have his case dealt with by a children's hearing after he admitted a charge of culpable homicide. Andrew Woodcock, from New Stevenston, Lanarkshire, became Britain's youngest ever ecstasy victim when he died in June last year, aged 13.

### Jury out in Christie libel trial

THE JURY in the Linford Christie libel trial yesterday retired to consider its verdicts. Mr Christie, an Olympic gold medalist, is suing author John McVicar over allegations that he took drugs to get to the top. The sprinter says that an article written by Mr McVicar in a 1995 issue of the now defunct satirical magazine, *Splendid*, meant he was a cheat who used banned substances to boost his physique and performance.

### Prisoner found hanged in cell

AN INMATE at Glasgow's Barlinnie Prison died yesterday after he was found hanging in his cell the day after his birthday. Ian Taylor, 26, from Ardrossan, Ayrshire, is believed to have hanged himself shortly after contacting a relative by phone. Staff who discovered him attempted resuscitation, but he was declared dead at Glasgow Royal Infirmary.

### Sixteen hurt in minibus crash

SIXTEEN PEOPLE were taken to hospital yesterday following an accident involving a minibus and four other vehicles. A number of pensioners who were travelling in the minibus when the smash occurred on the A59 at Hessey, near York, were injured.

## Midlands toll road proposal 'flawed'

BY RANDEEP RAMESH  
Transport Correspondent

THE £400M contract to build Britain's first private toll road was awarded to a private consortium which produced a "seriously deficient" and "unacceptably crude" bid, according to leaked government documents seen by *The Independent*.

The independent report for the Department of Transport questions the traffic forecasts of Midland Expressway Ltd (MEL), which won the right to build the 27-mile Birmingham Northern Relief Road (BNRR) in 1991.

What has angered environmentalists is that consultants by the administration in 1990 found MEL's bid was "seriously deficient in many respects". The report goes on to say that the traffic modelling was "unacceptably crude" and the market research techniques used were "inappropriate".

The controversial £400m motorway will be funded by tolls. It is expected a motorist travelling the whole 27 miles will be charged £2.50 for the journey.

The highway links the M6 and M42 motorways across the north of Birmingham. Its supporters say it will reduce congestion, but the green lobby believes the BNRR will generate rather than reduce traffic.

# Investors get poor deal from City

SAVERS WHO buy personal pensions are being ripped off by companies that charge them too much and then deliver inferior investment performance, according to a report published yesterday by *Which?*, the independent consumer magazine.

The guide claimed that holders of personal pensions were getting a "raw deal" because they typically paid four times as much in charges as those using pension schemes that were sponsored by employers.

The *Which?* report drew an angry reaction from insurance companies, which said many of the criticisms were out-of-date or misguided.

According to research by *Which?*, the publishing arm of the Consumers' Association, the higher charges are not reflected in superior investment performance.

When City firms invested personal pension money in the stock market, the investments earned an average of 11.1 per cent a year over five years. But when they invested the same money on behalf of employers, it earned 13.5 per cent a year. *Which?* said a consumer who invested £1,000 in a typical personal pension five years ago would now have a fund worth £2,865. If the

BY ANDREW VERITY

money had been invested in an employer's scheme, it would have been worth £3,548.

Sheila McKechnie, the director of the Consumers' Association, said: "We can't think of another major industry where consumers get such a raw deal or where companies get away with selling such poor products." She said that high charges taken at the beginning of a personal pension contract allowed life insurers to make their profits while the consumer took all the risks.

Most personal pensions involve an initial charge of 5 per cent of all contributions over the life of the pension contract. Thus someone who saved £100 a month for 25 years would pay £1,500 in initial charges alone. Most of this money is taken out of the first two years' contributions. Yet according to official figures from City regulators, more than a third of personal pension holders stop paying within three years.

Ms McKechnie said insurers should reform themselves by spreading charges over the lifetime of a contract rather than taking them out in the early years and that stiff controls were needed from the

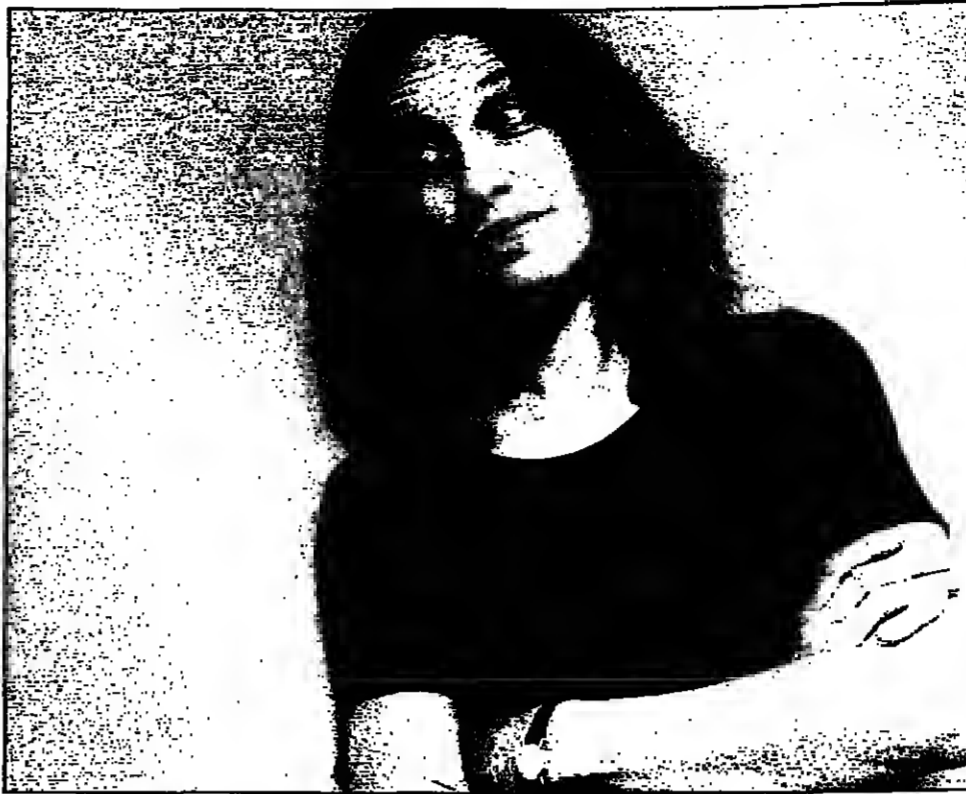
new regulator, the Financial Services Authority. She said: "The new regulator should have a statutory duty to make sure products meet minimum standards of charges, flexibility and quality before they're sold."

The *Which?* report also claimed that many endowments and Peps had underperformed the stock market, in some cases returning as little as 4 per cent a year.

The investment industry rejected the criticism as naive and misleading. Many insurance companies - including Standard Life, GA Life, Scottish Mutual and Flemings - have already spread their charges over the life of the contract. This has been done despite the risk that the contracts may lapse before they have recovered their sales costs.

Peter Robertson, a general manager at Standard Life, one of the biggest providers of personal pensions, said some of the criticisms were outdated. "We have been doing what they have suggested for three years," he added. He said employers' schemes gave better interest because the employer bore the cost of administering them, and economies of scale mean they are cheaper to run than personal pensions.

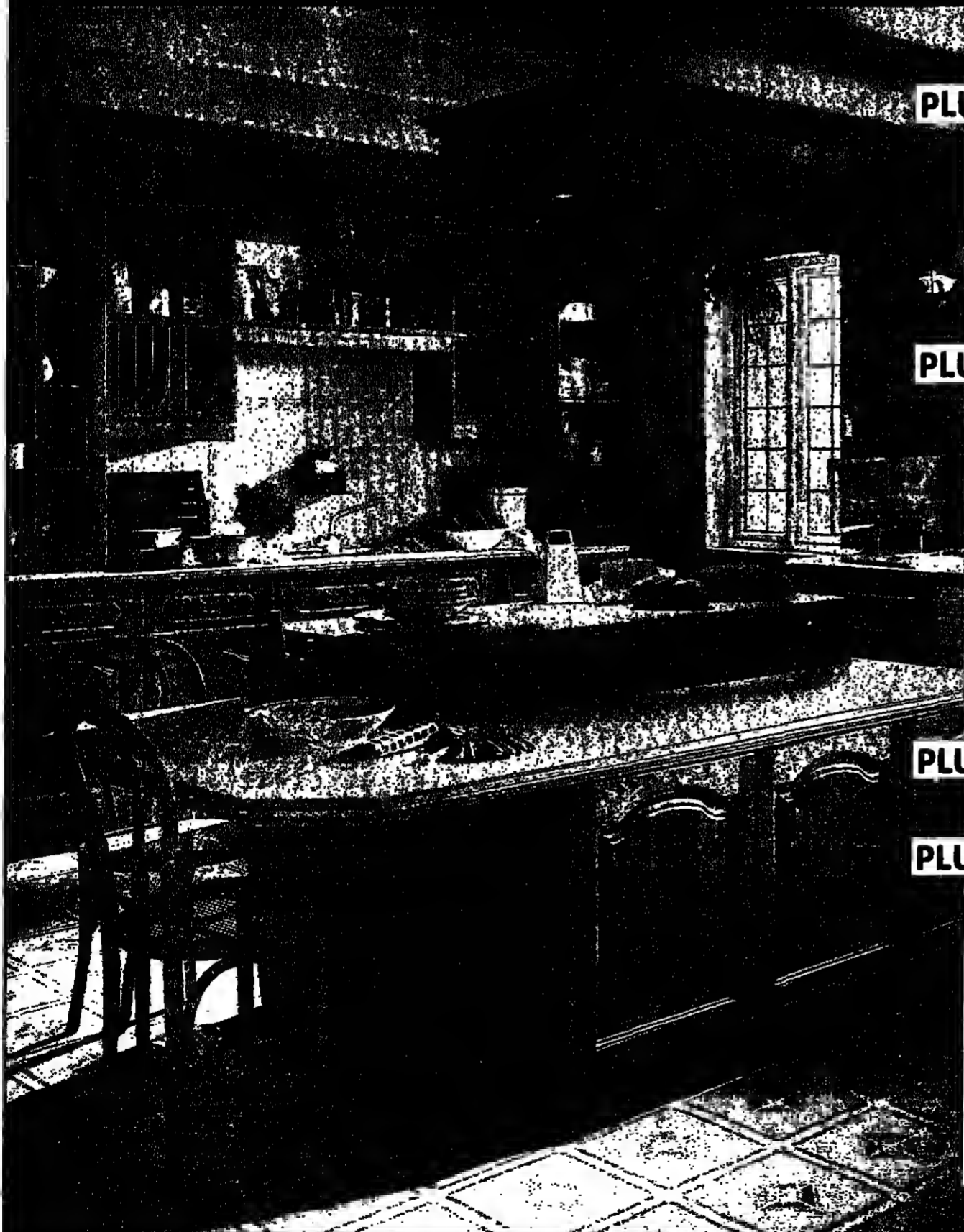
Leading article, Review page 3



Kristina Ferris, whose pension fund was still worth less, after eight years, than the amount she had paid in

Rut Xavier

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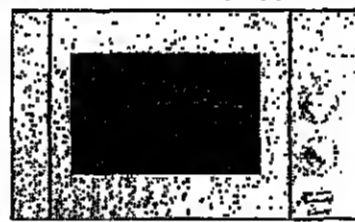
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## How a friend's advice turned into a scandal

KRISTINA FERRIS is the type of keen and disciplined customer whom private pension providers claim we should all be like.

Eager to start her retirement planning early, she decided to take out a pension shortly after starting a new job as a graphic designer at the age of 25.

Moreover, she was committed: every time her salary went up, so did contributions into her pension.

Ironically, Kristina's very commitment almost led to her retirement income being worth a fraction of what it should be. A fund which should have grown to £45,000 over that period was worth barely £11,000. Were she retiring now, the reduced sum would buy her an income of just £14 a week.

Her experience now forms part of a massive pensions mis-selling scandal, involving hundreds of thousands of innocent victims and a £15bn compensation bill for the companies that advised them.

Kristina's own mistake was to listen to a "close friend", an insurance salesman who then worked for a company called Merchant Investors. He wrongly advised her that instead of joining her company pension scheme she should take out a private one instead. Every time she received a pay rise, he sold her a new plan instead of simply adding her

increased contributions to the original one.

His "advice" meant that Kristina faced new setting-up charges, which can take most of the first few years' payments into a scheme, every time she topped her contribution. To make matters worse, after he joined another insurer, Lincoln National, he continued to "advise" her this time to start out a new plan with his new employer.

As a result, despite making more than £16,500 of contributions, her fund was still worth less after eight years than she paid in - despite high investment returns over that period.

Kristina only discovered the gulf between her total payments and her fund's value after receiving a financial makeover from *The Independent* last year.

She said yesterday: "I was shocked when I found out what had happened. I had continued paying money into the scheme for all that time without realising that the amount my fund was worth was so low, compared to my contributions."

Even after the mis-selling was discovered, it took 15 months for her company scheme to be credited with the £45,000 her contributions should have been worth.

Kristina is no longer friends with the adviser concerned: "After my story was first published, I sent him a cutting. He never got in touch again."

NIC CICUTTI

## Community service for Vinnie Jones

SOCCER STAR Vinnie Jones was yesterday sentenced to 100 hours community service for assaulting a neighbour.

The Wales international and Queens Park Rangers assistant manager was ordered by St Albans magistrates to pay £400 compensation to Timothy Gear for the attack.

Jones, 33, who was convicted last month, was also fined £300 for criminal damage with £65 compensation and £400 costs, a bill totalling £1,165.

Piers Read, for Jones told

the court that a prison sentence would have ruined the footballer's career.

He said: "He would be sacked immediately."

Jones had now moved from Redburn, Herts, where he was living when the incident took place, to a new home in Hemel Hempstead "specifically to avoid anything like this happening again."

Hertfordshire Probation Service said it was now deciding how Jones should perform the community service.

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## Scheme covers cost of student failure

By BEN RUSSELL  
Education Correspondent

AN INSURANCE company is offering a policy which will pay off undergraduates' student loans if they are forced to leave after failing their university exams.

Under the scheme, insurance group Saxon is offering undergraduates unlimited cover if they fail to finish their course. The £1.35-a-week policy offers to pay off student loans and meet their outstanding tuition fees and even rent if they are forced to leave university early.

Students are covered whether they fail their exams, get pregnant, fall ill or even if they are sent to jail. The only thing not covered is if they drop out voluntarily.

The policy, which is available to all students but which can only be taken out by the over-25s, is being aimed at parents to cushion the blow if their offspring fall ill or go off the rails. From October, undergraduates will have to pay means-tested tuition fees of up to £1,000. Student grants will be abolished and replaced with maintenance loans. The National Union of Students estimates undergraduates spend up to £7,000 a year on living expenses. University figures suggest 17 per cent of undergraduates drop out.

Brian Wright, managing director of Saxon Direct, said: "We are not even excluding drug and alcohol abuse; there are few exclusions. These days universities cannot afford to be a soft touch. They need the income stream. It's the parents who end up with the liability, or their son or daughter ends up without a degree but with a liability."

Tony Higgins, chief executive of the Universities and Colleges Admissions Service, welcomed the initiative. He said: "Ucas does not endorse the scheme, but I feel that this policy is likely to address some of the major financial concerns of parents whose children are about to start university or college."



Band members prepare to play at the Amazing Great Children's Party in Battersea Park, south-west London, yesterday in aid of Children with Leukaemia

## Two mothers found bound and shot dead

By JASON BENNETTO  
Crime Correspondent

Whatever happened, she cannot have deserved this.

There was no sign of forced entry into the ground floor three-bedroom council flat in a block of 22 flats on two storeys. The flat is in a quiet residential street in a deprived area of London.

Another neighbour added: "One of the children was banging really hard on a door next to the house."

The murder has striking similarities to the death on Saturday of Avril Johnson, 30, a mother of two children. She was shot after being tied up in her home in Brixton, south London, by a gang of men.

Two separate murder inquiries have been set up by Scotland Yard but the teams of detectives are liaising with each other.

Detective Chief Inspector Andrew Kay, who is heading the Carby murder inquiry, said: "There are obvious parallels [between] the two cases. We are looking at the finer details, but the telling thing will be the forensic examination of the bullets and cartridge cases to see whether there is a link." The results are expected in a few days.

Ms Carby, a single mother, whose parents are from Jamaica, was found bound in the lounge of their home in Alma Street, Stratford, when her children, a girl aged 12, and two boys, aged 10 and four, awoke. At first they thought she was sleeping.

Sharon Burchill, 28, a neighbour, recalled: "It was a heart-breaking scene. The children were in the street in their night-clothes."

"They had obviously just got up. They were crying and saying: 'We can't wake our mummy up'. I can't think of anything worse for the three children."

Michelle Carby's home in Stratford, east London

to the house. I asked him what had happened. He said: 'My mum is dead'."

There were no signs that Ms Carby had been sexually assaulted. The motive for the crime is believed to be robbery but detectives have yet to establish whether anything was stolen.

The children, who are from two different fathers, neither of whom is believed to be connected to the killing, are being cared for by relatives. Police plan to question them in the next few days.

Detective Chief Inspector Kay added: "This was a cold and brutal killing of the

mother of three children. We urgently need the assistance of the public to trace the person or persons responsible for this callous killing."

In the second murder, Avril Johnson was shot next to her 31-year-old husband and daughters, aged 18 months and seven years old.

The attackers knocked on the front door of their flat in Cressingham Gardens at about 10pm on Thursday last week. When the door was answered four men pushed their way inside and threatened the couple and children with a gun and a knife and forced them into the bedroom.

The husband and wife had their hands and feet tied and their children were told to get underneath the bed.

The suspects demanded money and jewellery and then shot Mrs Johnson in the head and cut her husband on the neck before running out of the flat with a few hundred pounds and some jewellery.

Mrs Johnson was taken to hospital and died two days later. The man's injuries were not serious and the children were unhurt.

The police believed the killing could be drug-related and are examining possible links with gangsters in south London.

Detective Chief Inspector Steve Kipps, who is in charge of the inquiry, named Operation Trident, said: "This was a most callous killing. It is hard to imagine a more callous type of crime."

Operation Trident was set up earlier this year to tackle gun crime in Lambeth.

The number of murders in London rose by a quarter in the past year to 160. This compares to 127 for the same period the year before.

Anyone with any information should call Crimestoppers on 0800 555111.

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# Passions roused by tagging of calves and some fishy business

THURSDAYS IN Parliament are lucky dip days and yesterday was no exception.

The House of Commons kicked off with agriculture questions, which themselves provide a rag-bag of issues. Desmond Swayne (C, New Forest West) began with a defence of calves who have to have both ears tagged at birth. He was concerned that a particular breed, the Dexter, had ears smaller than the tags, which snag and tear into the soft flesh. He demanded electronic and more humane methods of identification.

The fish-loving Austin Mitchell (Lab, Great Grimsby) always gets an easy time from ministers be-

cause he is the only MP who knows anything about fish. Fisheries ministers come and go; governments come and go but Grimsby, Austin Mitchell and fish go on for ever.

For 14 years, I was Mr Mitchell's neighbour and shared the problems of representing a fishing community. Every month (it seemed like every day) he would be on the phone to me demanding a meeting with a fisheries minister. Assiduous does not begin to describe his fanaticism. I am sure that the Minister of Agriculture, Fisheries and Food has a rabbit hole in the corner of the fisheries office where Mr

Mitchell lives. Ministers probably have nightmares that he is in their bedroom but I would not be surprised if they wake up to find him actually in there demanding an increase in haddock quotas.

The fishing industry has more than its fair share of jargon: beam trawlers; mesh sizes; cod quotas; White Fish Authority; Sea Fish Authority; Fisheries Council; total allowable catches; Norwegian Box; black fish (nasty); and Spanish fishermen (very, very nasty).

All of these matters were discussed regularly in ministers' offices and I would tag along. I am now going to make a confession. While Mr Mitchell ranted and

## THE SKETCH



MICHAEL BROWN

raved, bullied and berated ministers and thumped the table, I always nodded sagely in agreement. But I

never, ever knew a single technical detail about this strange industry. Mr Mitchell was at it again yesterday berating Elliot Morley, the Fisheries minister, demanding a "level fishing ground" and hammering the European Union.

There was a general Tory attack on the Minister of Agriculture, Jack Cunningham, regarding the fall in farm incomes, led by new storm-trooper John Bercow (Con, Buckingham), who elicited the information that they have fallen by 37 per cent in real terms since Labour came to power.

Mr Cunningham may be popular in Parliament but apparently he is not popular among farmers. It was

alleged by Ian Bruce (C, South Dorset) that he is going to only one agricultural show this summer with his junior ministers for protection, for fear of being lynched by farmers. Good heavens, have we got to the point when Farmer Giles and all his colleagues actually yearn for the halcyon days of Douglas Hogg?

The Agriculture minister Jeff Rooker may have a good excuse for missing these shows. He told a bemused House he had just returned from the Sprays and Sprayers Exhibition in Cambridgeshire. After that, he can be forgiven for never visiting an agricultural show again. The House moved on to Attorney General's questions where mild-

mannered John Morris is enjoying an Indian summer of a career. Elected in 1958, he is the longest-serving Labour member, having served throughout the governments of 1964-70 and 1974-79.

He was responding to another senior backbencher, Sir Sidney Chapman (C, Chipping Barnet), who is enjoying a political renaissance after being first elected 28 years ago. Sir Sidney served as a government whip with me, in 1993, and I was recently looking at the "school photo" of that year. Of the 14 Tory whips in the picture only three are still in Parliament. The rest are dead or defeated. Sir Sidney is one of the three. May he live and reign for ever.

## Blair faces another rebellion in Lords

EDUCATION  
By FRANK ABRAMS  
Political Correspondent

THE Government faced more trouble in the House of Lords last night as two defeats over school reforms coincided with a conflict over student fees.

Peers defeated the Government twice over plans for changes to primary-school governing bodies. They voted to allow village and split-site schools that have shared governing bodies to continue with their present arrangements and to give parish and town councils a governor seat.

The House of Lords Education Minister, Baroness Blackstone, opposed the first amendment on grounds that individual governing bodies would have a "clearer focus" in raising educational standards. But it was passed by 95-91.

The second defeat came less than 40 minutes later when peers backed an amendment from the Tory education spokesman, Baroness Blatch, to retain parish and town councils' right to nominate representatives to the governing bodies of primary schools.

Lady Blatch, a former education minister, said parish and town councils meant much more to schools in terms of community spirit than local education authorities.

The defeats brought the defeats inflicted by peers on ministers since they came to power in May last year to 26, and came after last night's Commons decision to confront the Lords over fourth-year tuition fees at Scottish universities.

Despite a Liberal Democrat compromise amendment to be tabled on Tuesday, it seems possible the two houses will remain locked on the fees issue.



The independent MP Martin Bell checks his attire before receiving an honorary degree at Robert Gordon University in Aberdeen yesterday. Doug Moor

## Defence budget cut by £500m

GEORGE ROBERTSON, the Secretary of State for Defence, has fought off Treasury demands for more than £1bn cuts to the defence budget, but will take one of the biggest Cabinet "hits" of more than £500m in the Chancellor's comprehensive spending review.

Mr Robertson has won a battle to include two new £8bn aircraft carriers in his plans to be announced on Wednesday to restore some of Britain's traditional maritime role, at the cost of shrinking the tank force in

SPENDING REVIEW  
By COLIN BROWN  
Chief Political Correspondent

Germany. The forces no longer need to defend the Western front against attack by the former Soviet Union, but Mr Robertson - backed by Robin Cook, the Foreign Secretary - has argued for more flexible, hard-hitting forces, deploying frigates on operational missions and providing humanitarian aid with the back-up of force in the world's trouble-spots.

Tony Blair has told Cabinet colleagues that they would see "imaginative and radical" proposals to modernise government services when two critical reviews are published in the next fortnight.

The Comprehensive Spending Review is to be announced by the Chancellor on 14 July. The Prime Minister has invited all ministers to an end-of-term party on 15 July at Downing Street, followed possibly a week later by a reshuffle, which is expected to see

substantial changes at middle-ranking level but few changes in the Cabinet.

All the Cabinet ministers involved in the review of spending will bear the extent of the cuts in their budgets, but Mr Blair told the Cabinet yesterday that the big gainers - Frank Dobson at health and David Blunkett at education - were gaining more money in return for modernisation.

He also praised Jack Straw, the Home Secretary, for the modernisation of the Home Office programme. The Independent reported yesterday that Chris Smith, Secretary of State for Culture Media and Sport, has also secured a small increase in return for a radical change in arts strategy.

The losers are expected to include Margaret Beckett, the President of the Board of Trade, who has been bidding for an extra £3bn, and it appears too soon to make big savings on the social security budget under Harriet Harman, who is at the start of major reviews.

## Beef on bone ban will be upheld

PROSECUTIONS of traders who have sold beef on the bone will continue in spite of hopes by ministers that the ban on its sale could be lifted by next spring.

Michael Jack, the Conservative agriculture spokesman, claimed in the Commons that the Prime Minister supported lifting the ban.

Describing that as "a ray of hope" for farmers, Mr Jack called on Jeff Rooker, the minister of state, to "stop pursuing people in the meat trade, caterers, butchers, in terms of prosecution".

Mr Rooker replied: "The law is the law and the law will take its course, and I am not prepared to comment on cases that are coming before the courts. We are not the prosecuting authority. We are not pursuing anybody."

Jack Cunningham, the Minister for Agriculture, also came under attack in the House and was told to "stop blaming BSE" for the crisis in farming.

The Conservative deputy agriculture spokesman, James Paice, told him: "BSE does not account for the collapse of milk prices, the collapse of sheep prices or grain prices - nothing whatsoever to do with BSE."

The Government estimated that only 50 per cent of farmers had borrowings. However, Mr Paice told the Chamber that the figure is closer to 70-90 per cent. This total, he claimed, was rising by 8 per cent in general and 16 per cent in Scotland.

Mr Cunningham disputed Mr Paice's figures and describing his anger as "synthetic", insisted that the BSE crisis was a fundamental problem for farmers. "It really is the case that beef farmers think the

AGRICULTURE  
By DAISY SAMPSON

ban on their product resulting from the failures of the previous Government is one of the biggest problems they face."

Charles Kennedy, Liberal Democrat agriculture spokesman, echoed Mr Paice's criticism of Mr Cunningham and highlighted the drain that farmers are putting on the Department of Social Security.

Mr Kennedy wanted to know how many farmers were on benefit and told the House that figures provided to him from the DSS and Maff did not add up. He demanded an "urgent inquiry" from Mr Cunningham.

The Conservative MP John Bercow questioned Mr Cunningham, after hearing confirmation from him that farm incomes had fallen by 37 per cent in real terms in the 1997 calendar year.

Like Mr Paice, Mr Bercow emphasised his belief that the strength of the pound was the real cause of farmers' misery. He told the Commons that one of his constituents, the owner of a grass-drying business, has seen sterling's strength slash the prices of his products by 40 per cent over the past year.

"Do you understand why this man considers you are the worst occupant of your high office in living memory?" asked Mr Bercow.

Mr Cunningham agreed that the strength of sterling had caused problems for farming but blamed the former administration under which, he said, "two thirds of the increase in sterling happened".

Mr Bercow was a special adviser to the chief secretary to the treasury under the previous Tory government.

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(annual interest option)		
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£5,000+	6.60	5.28
£10,000+	6.70	5.36
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## QUESTIONS AND ANSWERS

### Sponsors for five Dome zones

FIVE OUT of the 11 zones in the Millennium Dome have been sponsored, Peter Mandelson announced last night. The deals have raised over £100m and the New Millennium Experience Company is in advanced discussion with sponsors for a further five zones. Manpower has sponsored the Work zone, Tesco the Learn zone, BSB the Play zone, BT the Talk zone and Marks and Spencer is a part sponsor of the National Identity zone.

### Packaging costs

A REPORT was published yesterday, commissioned by the Government, looking at keeping the costs of co-operating with an EU packaging directive to a minimum. A committee concluded that adjustments to packaging regulations should be kept to a minimum in view of the short timescale for achieving the directive targets, which are set for 2001. The Government wishes to double the UK's packaging recycling activity.

### Borders win help

THE SCOTTISH borders area is to receive a new package of support to help it develop its economy, the Scottish Office minister Brian Wilson said. He told Archy Kirkwood (Lib Dem, Roxburgh and Berwickshire) that Scottish Borders Enterprise would get an extra £1m to set up a Rural Inward Investment Team.



Admiral Stansfield Turner yesterday. Glynn Griffiths

## US 'should drop nuclear pledge'

AMERICA SHOULD drop a 46-year-old pledge to come to Britain's aid if it came under nuclear attack, a former director of the Central Intelligence Agency told MPs yesterday.

Admiral Stansfield Turner, who was head of the CIA from 1977 until 1981, told a meeting of the Parliamentary Campaign for Nuclear Disarmament that Britain should put pressure on the United States to sideline its nuclear stockpile.

"To be consistent in arguing against Iraq, India and Pakistan we must walk away from the pledge the US made to Europe in 1952 that we would come to your aid against invasion with nuclear weapons," he said.

"We can't tell the Indians or the Iraqis that what they are doing is wrong when we sit here on very large arsenals and a policy that if we need it we will use them first."

DEFENCE  
By FRANK ABRAMS

Admiral Turner told an audience of about 50 MPs that nuclear weapons were now the problem of the whole world, not of Russia and the US alone.

He argued that with anti-nuclear treaties moving at "glacial speed", the special relationship between Britain and the US should be used to push the disarmament process forward.

Instead of waiting for the formal process to be complete, nuclear nations could take part in "strategic escrow", the admiral said.

That would involve warheads gradually being placed in store under international inspection so that although their owners would have access to them they would not be ready for immediate use.

## THE HOUSE



### New rules for maintenance payments by absent parents

MINISTERS HAVE agreed a radical overhaul of the Child Support Agency which will simplify maintenance awards by introducing a fixed formula of payments for absent parents. Harriet Harman, Secretary of State for Social Security, will announce in the Commons on Monday plans to hand each lone parent a fixed percentage of the absent parent's income for a first child. A lower fixed percentage of earnings will be awarded for second and third children but no payments will be made for subsequent children.

### Hague returns on Monday

WILLIAM HAGUE, who has been off sick for a fortnight, will be back at work from Monday, his spokesman said last night. The Conservative leader has been at home watching tennis and football while convalescing from an operation to drain blocked sinuses last Thursday.

### Today in Parliament

Commons

Fireworks Bill, Lords amendments (Linda Gilroy, Lab Plymouth Sutton)

Pesticides Bill, Lords amendments (Ben Bradshaw, Lab Exeter)

Third Reading of Waste Minimisation Bill

Lords

Not sitting

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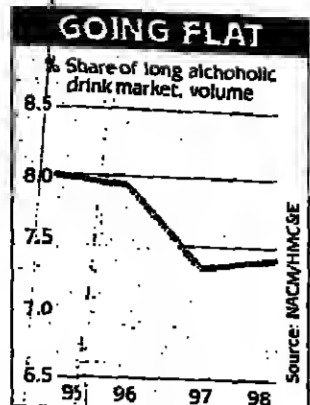
**SUBSCRIPTIONS**

**HOUSE**

**Insurance pay parents**

**Monday**

# Changed tastes turn cider market sour



BY NIGEL COPE  
Associate City Editor

IT WAS a bad day for Britain's cider makers yesterday. Two of them, KP Bulmer and Merrydown, announced sharp falls in profits, with the latter plunging to a £4m loss.

Bulmer's best known for its Strongbow brand, blamed a combination of cheap imported lagers, a fall in sales of its White Lightning brand and higher duties introduced by the Government. Merrydown blamed under-investment in its key products and the rapid decline of its Two Dogs brand of alcoholic lemonade.

While the cider companies brush the woes aside as a temporary problem, others are not so sure. Some are even asking the question that would be laughed at in scrumpy strongholds such as the West Country: is cider going out of fashion?

It is true that the companies that make it are struggling. Bulmer's issued a profits warning to its City investors in February. Merrydown was almost brought to its knees by the collapse of the alcopop market. Matthew Clarke, which bought the Taunton company and makes brands such as Blackthorn and Diamond White, has seen its shares plummet. All have been cited as possible takeover targets.

How did all this happen? After all, it was only five or six years ago that cider was seen as the new trendy drink. This seemed somewhat implausible to some, given the drink's somewhat rustic reputation as something quaffed by ruddy-cheeked farmers and tramps slumped in ship doorways.



David Bridgman of Inches, the cider-making company, checks the product, sees a brighter future ahead

Tony Freeman

But trendy it became. In the early 1990s, the market became flooded with oew, up-market makes such as K and Red Rock, following the lead of Diamond White. Cider was strong - eight per cent proof in some cases - and it had a built-in tax advantage as it attracted lower duty than beer. Some even said lager had peaked. "When you went into a bar it would be full of young types holding sleek bottles of some improbably named cider," remembers one drinks analyst. "They called it badge drinking."

It is now clear that cider has not become the chosen drink of the younger drinking classes. Lager is still king and newer "nitroleg" beers like Caffrey's, have become hugely popular. Even the tramps have switched to Tennants Super.

What went wrong? The alcopop craze did huge damage to the cider makers and Kenneth Clarke's decision to raise duty on ciders last year also hit hard. Then the industry shot itself in the foot by cutting back on advertising just as the big brewers were putting millions behind their top beer brands. But a look at the figures show that reports of cider's death are greatly exaggerated.

True, cider volumes fell by two per cent last year but then so did volumes in the whole market for longer alcoholic drinks, including beer. Figures from the National Association of Cider Makers show that cider sales have risen from 19 million gallons in 1990 to 112 million in 1996. Between 1990 and 1996, volumes rose by 50 per cent.

What cider has failed to do is take over from beer. It still accounts for just 3.5 per cent of the market for long drinks still dominated by beer. Cider makers are adamant that cider still has a bright future. "We are predicting a 2 per cent fall in volumes this year but I don't think that spells disaster," says Nigel Freer, chief executive of Merrydown. "Do I think it's going out of fashion? No I don't." He says that cider still has regional strongholds in the West Country and Herefordshire, where it has traditionally been made. He also points to strong sales of sweeter ciders like Woodpecker in the North East and in Scotland.

# Woodhead calls for SAS-style heads

ALL LOCAL authorities should be able to "parachute in" heads with "streetfighting" skills to turn round failing schools, Chris Woodhead, the Chief Inspector of Schools said yesterday.

BY BEN RUSSELL  
Education Correspondent

He said experienced heads could help train teachers and act as troubleshooters at schools in trouble. Head teachers backed the idea of temporary trouble-shooters yesterday, but warned that councils would have to offer pay rises of 20 per cent - £10,000 for secondary heads - to tempt skilled staff into difficult schools.

But inspectors warned that so-called "superheads" could not perform overnight miracles, and called for proper planning to ensure that the schools they leave do not founder without effective leadership.

Mr Woodhead was speaking at the launch of an Ofsted report into the increasingly popular practice of sending successful head teachers to take over failing schools.

The report's author Elizabeth Passmore, said: "Sometimes the temporary head has been expected to do more than humanly possible. Somebody put in place for three weeks was asked to calm staff, placate parents, plus do all the other things, which is just not possible."

He said: "If I were a chief education officer I would want within the authority to have leadership expertise I could use in various ways."

David Hart, general secretary of the National Association of Head Teachers, welcomed the idea of trouble-shooters as a short-term solution, but said all schools needed stable, long term leadership.

"One way would be to work in schools judged to be failing, or more generally in a consultancy role, or for training other teachers aspiring to headship. Ofsted is absolutely clear that leadership is the key to school improvement."

"Schools can't be turned round in a year, they deserve a permanent solution," he said. He said heads needed extra pay, at least 20 per cent over the average, to take on the challenge.

The Ofsted survey of 12 councils looked at schools where successful heads had been drafted in as temporary trouble-shooters. High profile examples include Peter Clark, who took charge of The Ridings School in Halifax.

"We will be talking to the Government later this month. You have to provide the new head with an attractive remuneration package if you are going to convince somebody to move out of a successful headship and take on the challenge of another school."

Mr Woodhead said local authorities had no difficulty attracting heads to the challenge of leading a failing school.

New guidelines for head teachers on identifying paedophiles who live near schools were published yesterday. The guidelines say police should decide whether heads, teachers and parents are given information about offenders.

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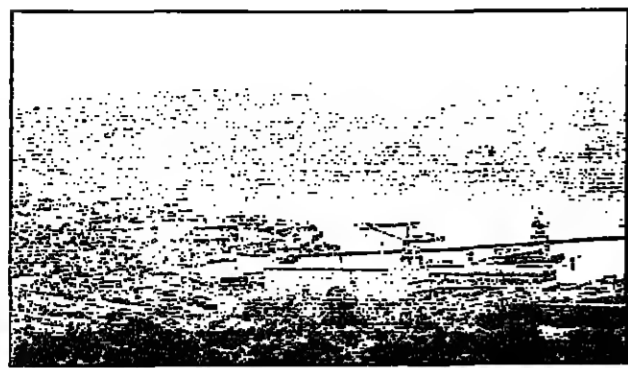
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# Last peace camp prepares for its final battle



THE phone barely stopped ringing yesterday in the floral-painted caravan opposite the Royal Navy's nuclear-submarine base at Faslane on the Gare Loch. When the Sheriff's men move in to try to clear Britain's last peace camp, they can expect stiff resistance.

"Disco Dave", a veteran of the Manchester airport protest, and Danny Fairley were re-siting one of the caravans, hoping to make the eviction more time-consuming and expensive. With two tunnels, one barred by a steel door and containing supplies for a month, 30 "lock-ons", most of them set in concrete, and tree-top ropeways to be overcome, the campaigners think it could cost the council £300,000 to evict them.

"It looks like they are really going to go for it this time," said Danny, 32, from Blantyre, who has been at the camp for seven months. "We are prepared for non-violent confrontation - this is a peace camp remember - but some of the security people can be pretty heavy-handed."

BY STEPHEN GOODWIN  
Scotland Correspondent

"They" are Argyll and Bute District Council, which this week won the latest round in a court battle to get the protesters evicted. The camp, a colourful if somewhat ragged assembly of caravans, benders and wooden shacks, has occupied a strip of land by the A814, about half a mile from the base, for almost 16 years.

Tourists do a double-take as they drive past an official-looking sign warning "Danger! Trident unsafe, keep away"; then they see the others, "No nukes is good nukes", and the camp behind a thin screen of pines and birches.

Under the old socialists of Strathclyde Regional Council, the protesters had a lease to the site. But local-government reorganisation brought councillors of a different political hue and two years ago Argyll and Bute decided it wanted them out, condemning the camp as "unsightly".

Danny said most local people would like to be rid of the



The Royal Navy's Faslane submarine base (above left) and one of the defensive tunnels that anti-nuclear protesters have dug at the peace camp Mike Gibbons/Spindrift

base - an anti-nuclear stance shared by most of Scotland. "But some of them don't like the way we live." The camp certainly has a New Age look to it. Danny is barefoot and, to judge by supplies stacked in a

shed, the place exists on tins of haricot and red kidney beans. About a dozen protesters are around most of the time, but with an eviction attempt looming, numbers are expected to swell. Dave thinks

they could depend on maybe 100 after the court appeal deadline of 17 July. Lynn Burke, 43, a New Zealander who has been an occasional visitor to the camp for five years, said she would stay on

the site until the showdown. A passionate anti-nuclear campaigner, she hoped her eight-year old daughter would not be present when the Sheriff's officers move in. Susan Mair, the council's head of legal ser-

vices, said there would be no immediate attempt at eviction. Council members would first have to determine how they wanted to enforce the court ruling. But there seems no doubting the intention to do

so. Convector John Wilson said the time had come. "The camp is not a very bonny place," he added. But campaigners retort that a grey-painted nuclear base must be the bigger environmental threat.

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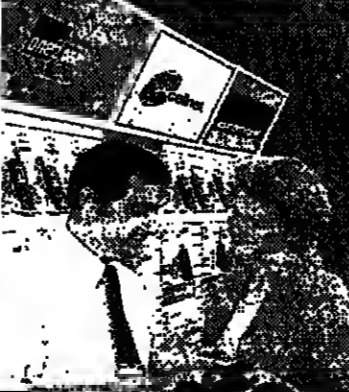
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## Outrage over 'humiliation' of prisoner

A FEMALE remand prisoner was refused food and water for more than 24 hours by prison staff, who subjected her to what the prisons watchdog has described as the most "humiliating, degrading, and inhumane" treatment.

The 41-year-old woman was kept in an empty cell and denied access to a toilet or washing facilities for an entire weekend. The woman, who spent the two days wrapped in a blanket after being denied her clothes, was due to make her court appearance the following day.

The Prisons Ombudsman, Sir Peter Woodhead, was so outraged by the case that he called on Richard Tilt, the prisons director general, to personally apologise to the woman. Mr Tilt refused but asked one of his staff to make the apology.

The woman's treatment was described by Sir Peter yesterday as the worst case he has investigated in his three year tenure as ombudsman.

It was revealed as part of his annual report, in which he accused the Prison Service of ignoring his advice. Sir Peter said: "I am still upholding almost half of the complaints I investigate and am increasingly concerned that the Prison Ser-

BY IAN BURRELL  
Home Affairs Correspondent

vice does not seem to be learning from its past mistakes."

The female remand prisoner was being held at Risley prison in Cheshire. She was transferred to the prison's segregation unit after causing damage to her cell. But she was moved to a bare cell which Risley's deputy governor later conceded "breaches the sanitation requirements" because it had no toilet or running water.

The woman was made to strip because a piece of metal was missing from her own cell.

After she refused on principle to put on a canvas "strip dress" and wrapped herself in a blanket, staff would not allow her food or drink or access to toilet and washing facilities.

The woman, who was also menstruating, was later found by a female member of staff, who took pity on her because she was using paper cups as a toilet in the absence of even a chamber pot in the cell.

In his report on the case, Sir Peter called for the Prison Service to initiate "an investigation into the actions of the staff involved in this case, with a view to considering whether such ac-

tions might form the basis of disciplinary charges."

In his annual report yesterday, Sir Peter said he noted with "disappointment" that no disciplinary action seemed to have been taken. He said the Prison Service had told him that Mr Tilt would only apologise personally in "the most exceptional circumstances".

But Sir Peter commented: "Given the shocking nature of my findings and the fact that it was the first time I had recommended that disciplinary action against staff be considered, it is difficult to see why this case was not considered exceptional by the Prison Service."

The Prison Service said the prisoner had been "disruptive" and had refused to comply with staff instruction. It said it had apologised to the woman and two members of staff had "received advice" about "appropriate handling" of such incidents in future.

Last year, the ombudsman received 1,960 complaints which led to 553 investigations, a slight increase on the previous two years, but not as great as the increase in the prison population during the same period. He upheld 44 per cent of complaints investigated.

## Unmarried fathers to be given full parental rights

MEN WHO father children outside marriage are to be given the same parental rights as married fathers in a law reform aimed at reflecting modern British society.

The Lord Chancellor, Lord Irvine, has decided that unmarried fathers who jointly sign the birth register with the baby's mother should automatically acquire parental responsibility.

The move, which will affect around 180,000 fathers a year, was announced yesterday by Geoff Hoon, Parliamentary Secretary at the Lord Chancellor's Department, at the 50th-anniversary conference of

BY IAN BURRELL  
Home Affairs Correspondent

the Tavistock Marital Studies Institute.

Under current law, married parents have equal parental rights to take decisions about the child's upbringing. But where parents are unmarried, the mother has the sole right. The fact that a father's name appears on the birth certificate makes no difference.

The Lord Chancellor has decided to change the law to reflect the fact that marriage is no longer seen as a prerequisite for having children. More than one in three babies - 35.8

per cent in 1996 - are born to unmarried parents, though most are in stable relationships.

Mr Hoon said: "The majority of unmarried fathers sign the birth register jointly with the mother. In doing so they are making a commitment. Many assume that this automatically gives them the status enjoyed by a married father. I feel it does not." Unmarried fathers can acquire rights on if the mother agrees to share them by entering into a parental responsibility order.

The reform is likely to be included in the Modernisation of Justice Bill planned to be introduced in the autumn.

DONALD MACINTYRE

Standing up to tyrants and dictators does not go down badly  
in the modern Labour Party

THE FRIDAY REVIEW, PAGE 3



# Aids virus can defeat 'wonder-drugs'

THE DISCOVERY of a strain of Aids virus that is resistant to the latest batch of anti-HIV drugs has created fresh pessimism amongst scientists attending the international Aids conference in Geneva, which ends today.

Although many of them expected a form of HIV to emerge which would prove resistant to the existing arsenal of anti-viral drugs, many did not believe it would happen just two years after the introduction of the most successful Aids treatment

BY STEVE CONNOR  
Science Editor

to date. Combination therapy, where two or more drugs are given simultaneously, has cut death rates by nearly a half and given a new lease of life to Aids patients. Some of those who were seriously ill have even been able to return to work.

The latest anti-HIV drugs, called protease inhibitors, play a critical role in combination therapy which is why scientists were disappointed to hear that

HIV has already managed to become resistant to them.

Frederick Hecht, assistant clinical professor of medicine at the San Francisco General Hospital, reported at the conference that a middle-aged gay man living in San Francisco was infected with a form of HIV that had developed resistance against six of the eleven approved drugs for treating Aids, including four of the new protease inhibitors on the market.

The details of the study are

to be published later this month in the *New England Journal of Medicine* but they were released early at the International Aids Conference in Geneva because of their significance.

"We still don't know how frequently resistant strains are transmitted. But we now know that people can acquire strains with multi-drug resistance, including resistance to protease inhibitor treatment," Professor Hecht said.

Two years ago, at the last Aids conference in Vancouver,

the early trials of combination therapy with protease inhibitors had created near euphoria. Some had even dared to use the "c" word, suggesting it was the next best thing to a cure.

However, seasoned Aids researchers know that the virus's ability to mutate into new disguises means that the emergence of drug-resistant forms was only a matter of time. The two previous classes of Aids drugs, the nucleoside analogues such as AZT and the reverse transcriptase inhibitors,

have both suffered from resistance problems.

"Sexual transmission of a multiple-drug resistant form of HIV was highly anticipated," said Dr Anthony Fauci, a veteran Aids researcher at the US National Institute of Allergy and Infectious Disease near Washington DC.

"This is a wake-up call warning people who incorrectly assume that if they catch the virus it will be easy to treat. That may not be the case," Dr Fauci said.

Part of the initial optimism about combination therapy stemmed from it causing levels of the virus to fall below the limits of detection, raising the possibility that the drugs may even have eliminated it entirely from the body.

It is now known, however, that combination therapy still allows latent pools of HIV to remain viable inside certain cells of the immune system which are left untouched by the drugs.

"It is going to be much more difficult to eradicate the pool of

hidden cells than originally thought. Virtually everyone has a pool of latent infected cells and they seem to be a very long-lived reservoir," Dr Fauci said.

"Our group and others are pursuing studies to identify and treat people recently exposed to HIV before the burst of virus replication, which occurs in most patients soon after infection. Such studies will help to determine whether it will be possible to prevent the early establishment of latent pools of HIV," he said.

## Action at last to save Britain's threatened hedgerows

NEW REGULATIONS to protect Britain's vanishing hedgerows were proposed yesterday, only a week after a Herefordshire farmer became the first person to be fined for digging hedges up.

The 1997 Hedgerow Regulations, brought in to protect hedges after a campaign lasting nearly a decade, should be made simpler and stronger, said a group of experts set up to review them.

Their report was published by the Environment minister, Michael Meacher, who promised that a new set of draft regulations would be drawn up for consultation. "Hedgerows are a much-loved part of our countryside heritage and a habitat rich in biodiversity," he said. "And yet the last survey, in 1993, showed that over 3,500 kilometres (2,200 miles) were being grubbed out each year."

The 1997 regulations have just begun to bite, with the conviction at Leominster magistrates' court last week of Ian Prior, a farmer, who was fined £2,000 with £4,000 costs for taking out half a mile of hedges on his farm in Golden Valley, Herefordshire.

Mr Prior and his wife, Robbie, have since been receiving hate mail and abusive telephone calls.

"It's been just awful," he said

BY MICHAEL MCCARTHY  
Environment Correspondent

yesterday. Mrs Prior added: "We have had hate letters and hate phone calls. It's ridiculous. We've been treated worse than people who have murdered."

The regulations were brought in because of the enormous hedgerow losses in the post-war English countryside, which reached a peak in the late 1980s when farmers were receiving subsidies from Brussels to grub hedges out.

It has been estimated that in 1955, Britain had 620,000 miles of hedges - while the latest (1993) estimate from the Institute of Terrestrial Ecology was that the figure now down to 236,000 miles.

In eastern England in particular, vast prairies were created by "harley barons", largely devoid of the wildlife for which hedgerows provide much shelter.

On his own 295-acre mixed farm Mr Prior was attempting something much less dramatic: to turn seven small fields into two larger and more profitable ones for crop growing of about 20 acres each.

But Herefordshire Council said the hedges he removed were medieval in origin and thus important landscape features covered by the regulations.



Long-established hedgerows are disappearing so fast that new laws have been brought in to protect them

Tom Pilston

It prosecuted, and Mr Prior became the first landowner in Britain to fall foul of the new law.

After the court hearing, the council leader, Terry James, said the case should act as a warning to all landowners.

"We will not tolerate the wilful destruction of the environment for personal gain," he said. "The evidence shows that this landowner has destroyed valuable hedgerows, not only

obliterating an historic field system which has dominated this landscape for centuries, but [also destroying] a valuable habitat for wildlife. Farmers have a huge responsibility as custodians of our countryside."

Mr Prior, however, is adamant that the hedges he removed were not medieval. "They were hedges planted under the Enclosure Acts in about the 1850s," he said yes-

terday on his farm in the foothills of the Welsh border.

"They had big gaps in them and we told the council we would be replanting more than we were taking out."

Mr Prior said that he gave the council the six weeks' notice of his intention to remove them required under the regulations, and that they only contacted him, asking him to desist, the day the notice expired.

He thus thought he was not breaking the law when he went ahead. But the council had received his letter later than he thought and in fact he was still inside the notice period - and was convicted.

"We feel a bit shell-shocked," said Mr Prior. "It's not as if we're against wildlife - we're going to join the Government's countryside stewardship scheme. And the bigger fields we

were making are better for wildlife because you can leave a bigger margin all the way round. You have to work small fields right to the edge."

"We are just trying to make a living in farming, which isn't a very clever business to be in at the moment."

Mrs Prior is even more distressed by the abuse. "It has become a storm in a tea cup," she said. "We have lived here for 11 years and no one ever

said anything about the hedge. No one mentioned it until all this hoo-ha. People get very excited about a medieval hedge and they visualise a 12-foot-thick hedge, not a gappy hawthorn that has been eaten by horses and sheep."

"We are not destroyers of the countryside. We have dug ponds and planted hedges. We are not evil people. We just wanted to reorganise things to make the farm work better."

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# Pugs' How Saddam kept deadly gas secret



Two Iranian girls walk past a mural featuring the former Iranian spiritual leader Ayatollah Khomeini at the Behesht Zahra cemetery, where thousands of fighters of the Iran-Iraq war are buried

IRAQ PRODUCED the highly lethal VX poison gas far earlier than hitherto suspected and used it against Iranian soldiers in a critical battle of the Iran-Iraq war, a senior Iraqi intelligence officer has told *The Independent*.

Iran insists it only produced VX gas in a laboratory and never succeeded in manufacturing it in a form which could be used in weapons. The UN Security Council is demanding more information about VX as well as other Iraqi chemical and biological weapons, before lifting economic sanctions.

General Waheed Sammarai, former head of Iraqi military intelligence, says Iraq succeeded with the help of German scientists in "weaponising" VX at the end of 1987.

He said: "VX was used in the battle of Fao on 17 and 18 April the following year. We put it in long range artillery shells and dropped it from aircraft. This is what caused the panic among the Iranian Revolutionary Guards."

The battle of Fao, a desolate peninsula sticking into the Gulf in the far south of Iraq, is considered the turning-point of the eight-year Iran-Iraq war. Iran first captured it in heavy fighting in 1986 but lost it two years later in a surprise attack by Iraqi Republican Guard divisions.

It was known that Iraq made heavy use of poison gas at Fao, but not that it deployed VX. General Sammarai, prior to his promotion to head of Iraqi military intelligence, was in

BY PATRICK COCKBURN

charge of its section dealing with Iran. He says: "The VX was produced six months before it was used by Iraqi engineers supported by German scientists. It replaced Sarin which we had used before."

He believed the German scientists were hired on an individual basis.

Iran says it suffered 50,000 casualties from gas attacks in the Iran-Iraq war of whom some 5,000 died. Iraq says the real figure is twice as high, with the heaviest losses being inflicted at Fao. In addition, some 5,000 Kurdish civilians were killed by poison gas used by Iraq in the town of Halabja in 1988.

General Sammarai said at the time of his defection, at the end of 1994, that Iraq had been able to produce VX in a form which could be placed in weapons. He said Iraq had enough of the substance to put in 10 missile warheads, though he suspects some have now been destroyed.

This was at first disbelieved by the UN team investigating Iraq's weapons of mass de-

struction, until the defection of Lt Gen Hussein Kamel, the son-in-law of Saddam Hussein, in August 1995, who confirmed his story.

Investigation of fragments of a missile taken by the UN to be tested in the US last month showed traces of VX. Iraq asked for tests in independent laboratories. However, Yevgeny Primakov, the Russian Foreign Minister, said last week in London that Iraq clearly had VX and should admit it. What was not known, hitherto, is that Iraq has not only had VX for a decade but has used it against Iran.

General Sammarai says he did not disclose the use of VX to Rolf Ekeus, the head of the UN special committee on Iraqi weapons of mass destruction, when he met him in 1995.

He says his priority is the overthrow of Saddam Hussein and his government and he has disclosed facts about Iraq's weapons of mass destruction when this is likely to do most political damage to the Iraqi leader.

The US was slow to protest about Iraq's use of poison gas in the Iran-Iraq war because

Washington largely supported Baghdad in the conflict. The US Navy attacked Iranian naval vessels and their oil facilities in the Gulf, claiming to protect Kuwait oil tankers which had been placed under the American flag. A team from the office of the UN Secretary-General investigating poison gas blamed both sides, but did not visit Halabja.

The war began in 1986 when Iran suddenly stormed Iraqi positions from the other side of the Shatt al-Arab waterway, inflicting heavy losses.

At one moment Iraq was suffering 1,500 casualties a day. In April 1988, Iraqi Republican Guard units counter-attacked catching by surprise the Iranian Revolutionary Guards, who expected an attack in Kurdistan. General Sammarai says: "We won because we used VX. We caught them by surprise and we deployed massive forces." He added that the Iraqis had little experience of gas warfare and did not realise VX was being used.

In addition to using chemical weapons on the battlefield Iraq fired some 190 missiles at Tehran, Qom and Isfahan in 1988. These had warheads containing conventional explosives. But Baghdad openly hinted that unless Iran signed a ceasefire agreement it would use poison gas.

The effectiveness of gas in the Iran-Iraq war may explain why Saddam Hussein, the Iraqi leader, has been so keen to retain his weapons despite economic sanctions.

## Nigeria releases political prisoners

NIGERIA'S military government had agreed to free all its political prisoners, the United Nations Secretary-General, Kofi Annan, said yesterday.

A government source said agreement was reached at late-night talks that the country's most prominent prisoner, Moshood Abacha, would give up his claim to the presidency, opening the way for his release.

Mr Annan did not specifically name Chief Abiola as among those to be freed but said he no longer believed he could claim the presidency. The claim was the reason for his detention in 1994.

Mr Annan's visit has been seen as the biggest sign yet of foreign confidence in General Abdulsalam Abubakar, who took over after the dictator Sani Abacha died last month.

World leaders have seized the chance to try to re-establish good relations with oil-producing Nigeria, Africa's most populous nation. They had soured because of Gen Abacha's refusal to respect human rights and establish genuine democracy.

"The government has agreed to release all political prisoners and I believe the announcement will be made at the appropriate time," Mr Annan

BY FELIX ONUAH

told a news conference in Abuja. "Abiola said he would want to be released to get on with his life. He told me 'I am not naive enough to think I can come out and be president'."

Chief Abiola, 60, claimed the presidency on the basis of the 1993 elections, regarded at the time as some of the fairest in Nigeria's history, and in defiance of Abacha.

The elections were annulled as Chief Abiola, a wealthy businessman from the south-west of the country, was poised to win, plunging Nigeria into confusion from which it has yet to recover.

Hopes have been raised for Chief Abiola's release since Abacha's death and his replacement by Gen Abubakar, who has already set free more than 30 political prisoners. "By agreeing to give up his mandate Abiola has paved the way for his own release."

"It could happen very soon. It could be hours, it could be days, let's wait and see," a senior government source said in Abuja.

Mr Annan said Chief Abiola was in good health but had complained that he was not in touch with the outside world and what his supporters were doing.

Chief Abiola also met Emeke Anyaoku, Secretary-General of the Commonwealth, which suspended Nigeria in 1995 for the execution of nine minority rights activists, including the author Ken Saro-Wiwa.

Gen Abubakar has shown his willingness by releasing political prisoners and trying to get to grips with the economic problems bequeathed by Abacha's chaotic government.

But Chief Abiola's case has been the most difficult and the one Gen Abubakar must clearly solve to win much credibility for any plan to restore civilian rule.

Abacha's own scheme was discredited by the fact that he was the only candidate for presidential elections set for 1 August.

A European Union envoy last week gave a clear indication that many outside Nigeria do not see an Abiola government - as demanded by his supporters - as the solution to the political crisis.

Political analysts say that Gen Abubakar, a northerner, would find an Abiola government impossible to sell to many of the colleagues he has to persuade to relinquish the privileges they have enjoyed during military rule.

## Budapest mafia car bomb kills tourists

BUDAPEST'S BLOODY gang wars between rival mafia groups reached new heights of violence yesterday when a car bomb exploded in the heart of the downtown shopping area, killing four people and wounding 20.

At least two of the wounded were in critical condition. Among the injured were several tourists, including visitors from Germany, Finland and the Czech Republic.

The bomb exploded shortly before noon, wrecking shop fronts and shattering windows up to 100 yards away. Panic erupted on the street as broken glass rained down on passers-by.

The four fatalities make this the worst outbreak of violence since the mafia turf wars began over the last few years. Three people were killed at the scene of the blast and a fourth died while being treated in hospital.

Hungary has been the scene of over 100 bombings in the last two years, most linked to organised crime. Until now most attacks have been limited to attacks on property, with devices

BY ADAM LE BOR  
in Budapest

exploding in the small hours of the morning when the streets are deserted, although there have been at least three fatalities in recent years.

Yesterday's car bomb however represents a dramatic escalation. The bomb appeared to be targeted at a businessman, Tamas Boros, who was one of those killed. The bomb, which was placed in a Polski Fiat 500 car, was apparently detonated by remote-control when Boros passed by on his way to collect his car from a nearby garage.

Dozens of police officers, including National Police Chief Laszlo Forgacs and Budapest Police Chief Attila Berta, were on the scene but refused to comment. The area around the blast site was cordoned off. Police are offering a five million forint (pounds 14,300) reward to anyone providing information leading to an arrest.

Boros, 43, had been the target of several previous attacks on his life, and his house was guarded by both private

security guards and the police. "He was a well-known figure on the borders of the underworld, who owned night bars and hotels with massage parlours," said Peter Vajda, organised crime expert, and a journalist at the Hungarian newspaper *Nepszabadsag*.

Most of the bombings in Budapest use Danubit explosive, a plastic explosive manufactured in Slovakia used in mining explosions. "Danubit is relatively easy to smuggle across the border and the amount used in the bombing was between two and four times that of previous bombings," said Peter Vajda.

Boros was probably targeted because of his collaboration with the police, said Vajda. "The talk in the underworld was that Tamas Boros had helped the police to imprison people responsible for other shootings and bombings. His house was under guard but this time he was not protected."

"This was something between underworld gangs, because of Boros' co-operation with the police."

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# Final home for a killer planned down to the last detail

**HOME FOR** Darrel Harris these days is New York State Penitentiary on Rikers Island, a small globe of land at the narrow end of Long Island Sound under the flight path into La Guardia airport. He is there just temporarily, however, while permanent digs are prepared for him at Clinton Prison, way up in the north near the Canadian border. Although permanent is not quite apt when you are talking about Death Row.

The decision by a Brooklyn jury last month to sentence Harris to death after it found him guilty of a triple murder in a nightclub in 1986 presented prison authorities with a problem. Because no one had been executed in the state since Eddie Lee Mays in 1963, it had nowhere to put him. The authorities hope to have the brand new Death Row at Clinton ready in time for his official sentencing on the 21 July.

After the reintroduction of the death penalty to the state three years ago, on the urging of its Republican governor George Pataki, it was only a matter of time before the first candidate would emerge

## AMERICAN TIMES

NEW YORK

from the courts. The procedures for carrying out execution have mostly already been put in place. Most important is the method. Harris will be dispatched by lethal injection. To be more precise, he will receive doses of sodium pentothal, followed by Pavulon and finally potassium chloride.

Thus, New York has abandoned its rich history of executions by the flow of electricity, "Old Sparky", the chair that sent Mays on his way at Sing Sing prison is now an exhibit at a museum in suburban Washington DC. Among those who were strapped to the state's "hot seat" over the years were Julius and Ethel Rosenberg for espionage in 1953. The most gruesome day recorded at Sing Sing was 12 August 1912, when no fewer than seven men were sent to sizzle in a single day.

Those regretting the change may include the ghost of the industrialist George Westinghouse

who in 1886 engaged in competition with his rival Thomas Edison to determine what kind of electricity was best for killing - alternating or direct current. Westinghouse favoured alternating and won.

Most of the details of how Harris will spend his days at Clinton have also been settled. For example, he will be furnished with a one-ounce bar of soap to clean himself. He will be allowed to read the Bible and smoke cigars. He will not be permitted, however, to chew gum or wear his own clothes.

There is reason to be especially vigilant of Harris once he arrives in Clinton. He probably knows the rules of incarceration better than any prisoner, because he used to be a prison guard himself. Indeed, in 1987, he was awarded a medal of heroism for helping to quell an inmate uprising. As Jim Flateau, a New York Correctional spokesman recently observed, Harris "is very well aware of procedures, opera-



Darrel Harris receives his bravery award in 1987 from Ed Koch, then mayor of New York City. *New York Daily News*

tions and the kinds of scams that inmates will try to accomplish".

Clinton was chosen for Harris, because it already has one building separated from all the others that has 48 cells for the most violent of

ris.) Each will have a back room with an en suite shower area and facilities for visitors. A back door will lead on to a Death Row exercise yard. The purpose is simple: to ensure that Harris does not so much as glimpse any other inmates in the prison. If he is having a so-called time at Rikers now, he had better make the most of it.

SOMEONE else in trouble with the law in New York is Jim Hornacek, an electrician. His crime? He was spotted punching a police horse in the nose at a raucous protest rally in midtown Manhattan on Tuesday. The demonstration was staged by construction workers angry at the city's transport authority for hiring a non-union company for a giant project on the West Side. Hornacek was charged with trying to injure a police horse and spent 15 hours behind bars before being released. No one is as excited by the incident as the *Daily News*; the tabloid gave it double-spread treatment yesterday. But then, the horse's name is Daily News 1. The joke, however, may finally be on the

News, struggling against competition from Rupert Murdoch's *New York Post*. Daily News 1, who is apparently no worse for wear, has a nickname - Snooze.

FINALLY, an update for those who may have read our report last week about the Lincoln Center's battle with Chinese officialdom over the fate of a 400-year-old Chinese opera, *The Peony Pavilion*, which was to open at the centre on 7 July. For nearly two weeks the centre's director, Nigel Redden, has been in Shanghai trying to change the mind of Ma Bozhin, the head of the city's Bureau of Culture, who at the 11th hour had decided the production was too "feudal" and "pornographic" for export to New York. Mr Redden had hoped President Bill Clinton's visit to Shanghai this week would sweeten the lady's mood. It did not and the centre has now officially given up hope of staging the 36-act classic. The remainder of a planned world tour for the opera, to Paris, Sydney and Hong Kong, is also in the balance. **DAVID USBORNE**

# FDR's memorial gains wheelchair

**VICE-PRESIDENT** Al Gore yesterday announced an addition to the year-old memorial complex in Washington DC to Franklin Delano Roosevelt: there is to be a new statue at the entrance depicting FDR in a wheelchair.

The absence of all but the most fleeting reference to President Roosevelt's paralysis was criticised by groups representing the disabled when the memorial opened last year, triggering a spirited national debate.

The architect and planners of the memorial, which comprises statues and plaques depicting episodes from FDR's life, argued that Roosevelt never used a wheelchair in public and insisted on hiding his disability from the public, going to great lengths to do so. They said he should be depicted as

BY MARY DEJEVSKY  
in Washington

he was seen in public and wanted to be seen. The same view was taken by FDR's grandson Curtis Dall Roosevelt.

Disabled groups argued that to conceal Roosevelt's handicap sent the wrong message, suggesting a disability was shameful. That might be historically accurate, but times had changed. The truth about public figures should not be hidden and FDR's example could be an inspiration, showing that even severe disability is no bar to the highest office in the US.

An opinion poll conducted in 1995 showed almost three-quarters of Americans agreed, as did President Bill Clinton, who submitted legislation calling for the addition to the



Franklin Delano Roosevelt

memorial. Roosevelt was paralysed from the waist down by polio, which he contracted in 1921 when he was 39.

He reportedly met visitors standing with the help of two

sticks or supported by helpers. He had a big wicker chair equipped with four small castors which he used indoors.

A depiction of the chair forms part of one of the Roosevelt sculptures in the memorial complex, and the two rear castors, which peep out from beneath FDR's wrap, are the only visible sign of the late President's disability.

The new statue will be funded by the National Organisation on Disability. It will cost \$1.5m, and will be funded by the National Organisation on Disability. Hugh Gallagher, a campaigner for the disabled who was a member of the committee that approved the addition and is himself paralysed from polio, said: "This is going to be the icon of the disabilities rights movement."



Pope John Paul II in St. Peter's Basilica to celebrate a mass

Paolo Cocco/Reuters

# Papal edict forces clergy to toe hard Vatican line

DEFYING HIS physical frailty, the Pope took on liberal clergy and Catholic teachers this week in a controversial edict which appears to remove any existing leeway for disagreement with the church's moral code.

In a new binding article, known as a *motu proprio*, the Pope this week inserted into the church's legislation, known as Canon Law, an oath that will force teaching clergy and theologians to follow the Vatican line much more closely in matters of faith, morals and ethics. The oath itself is not new. It was first introduced in 1989, though it was not yet part of Canon Law. Even then it triggered protests from Catholic theologians who said it would effectively end theological research and gag Catholic teachers.

This criticism failed to impress Cardinal Joseph Ratzinger, head of the Congregation for the Doctrine of the Faith - the Vatican body formerly known as the Inquisition. This week he welcomed the fact that the oath was now becoming part of Canon Law and

BY ANNE HANLEY

that Catholic teachers straying from the Vatican's narrow line would, therefore, become automatically liable to the disciplinary sanctions of Canon Law, such as excommunication. The *motu proprio* prohibits clergy and Catholic teachers from deviating in any sense from the papal line against euthanasia, abortion and extramarital sex. The edict delivered a blow to prospects for closer relations with the Church of England by adding into Canon Law the Catholic church's firm opposition to female priests.

The edict came days after the pontiff made a public sortie into the political arena in one of his strongest attacks on the policies of the centre-left Italian government. Speaking to Catholic groups, the Pope attacked "law-makers ... who contribute to the creation of legislation which contrasts with the essential rights of the family based on marriage."

He said: "The family gets little help from weak policies

which fail to offer adequate support either on an economic or a social level."

The Pope's words suggest that the Catholic church is re-entering the political fray in Italy. Since the demise in the early 1990s of the corrupt Christian Democrat Party, a political body which had been close to the Vatican, the church has seemed to be in some difficulty in deciding where it should position itself.

During general elections in 1995 and 1997, many Catholic organisations and lobby groups advised supporters to cast their votes for left-of-centre groups. But this week, as the governing coalition prepared to address several thorny issues, such as state support for private schools, the great majority of which are Catholic - the high-ups criticised the government's record on "family" policy, inviting Catholics to reconsider their political position.

Those remnants of the Christian Democrat Party who have drifted leftwards and into the current government are resisting this trend, stressing

their right to vote according to conscience in matters which touched on their religious beliefs. They say they can do more by pushing for a pro-family policy from inside the government rather than by defecting. Former Christian Democrats on the right greeted the bishops' - and the Pope's - recent pronouncement with glee. Ministers were swift to defend their record.

Livia Turco, the social affairs minister, claimed that "unlike Christian Democrat governments which for 40 years neglected the family," the current administration "has always considered it a top priority."

Anna Finocchiaro, who holds the equal opportunities portfolio, was hardly conciliatory towards the church. Foreseeing difficult days ahead when legislation on adoption by unmarried couples and homosexual marriage are due for debate, she urged Catholics to "get real. The reality is that families can be hell. They have to realise that."

Leading article, Review, page 3



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# BUSINESS

Business & City Editor, Jeremy Warner  
News desk: 0171-293 2636 Fax: 0171-293 2098  
E-mail: [IndyBusiness@Independent.co.uk](mailto:IndyBusiness@Independent.co.uk)

## BRIEFING

### Carpenter seeks ballot ruling



MICHAEL HARDERN (left), the self-styled carpenter running for election to the board of Nationwide, has called for the Building Societies Commission to rule against a ballot form sent out to 5 million members which he claims is biased.

Mr Hardern said he would not accept a defeat in his bid to become a director because the form allowed voters to mistake a "For" vote for an "Against". However, Nationwide said it had received several hundred complaints from members annoyed that they had to vote on the issue for a second time. Mr Hardern was heavily defeated in his attempt to run for the board last year.

### US firm attacks Kingston float

A TINY US shell company yesterday attacked plans by Kingston Communications, Hull's municipally-owned telecoms company, to float on the stock market.

Landtel Communications, a company set up specifically to buy a stake in Kingston, has offered Hull City Council £245m for 49 per cent of Kingston and 100 per cent of its subsidiaries, but this offer has been rebuffed.

Laurence Zimmerman, Landtel's chairman, said a flotation would inevitably lead to a loss of control for Hull council. Kingston, which is preparing for a £500m flotation later this year, dismissed Landtel's comments, pointing out that the US company has assets of just \$1m (£600,000).

### Sema sale nets Paribas £270m

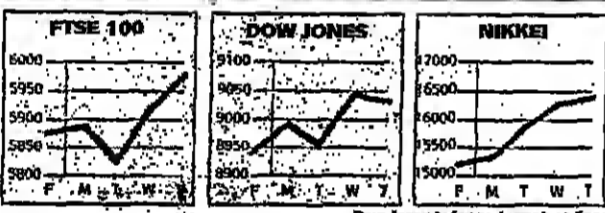
PARIBAS, the French bank, yesterday pocketed almost £270m when it sold an 8 per cent stake in Sema, the Anglo-French computer services group. Paribas placed the shares, which were sold for 710p, with institutional investors.

The bank retains a 14 per cent stake, and has promised not to sell any more shares for the next six months. Paribas said the sale was "part of normal portfolio management of our investments in industrial companies."

Sema said the sale would broaden its institutional shareholding and enhance the liquidity of its shares. The shares rose 5p to 725p.

Investment column, page 21

## STOCK MARKETS



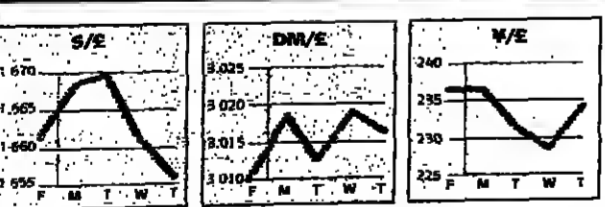
Index	Close	Change	High	Low	Vol
FTSE 100	5978.80	+56.90	5980.50	5962.80	3.83
FTSE 250	5560.20	+23.30	5565.00	5540.20	3.39
FTSE 350	2874.00	+24.70	2879.00	2859.00	3.75
FTSE All Share	2880.00	+22.75	2885.00	2860.00	3.72
FTSE SmallCap	2601.70	+1.40	2605.00	2598.00	3.18
FTSE Fledgling	1426.10	+0.00	1426.10	1426.10	3.30
FTSE AIM	1093.30	+0.00	1093.30	1093.30	1.15
FTSE EBLIC 100	1064.26	+3.85	1068.00	1060.00	1.15
Dow Jones	9038.46	+10.95	9040.00	9020.00	1.58
Nikkei	16471.58	+108.69	16480.00	16450.00	0.93
Hang Seng	8666.16	+23.06	8670.00	8650.00	4.62
Dax	5904.10	-2.75	5905.00	5895.00	2.68

## INTEREST RATES



Index	3 month	6 month	1 year	2 year	3 year	5 year	10 year	15 year	20 year
UK	7.86	0.97	8.00	0.69	5.82	-1.18	5.38	-1.62	
US	5.69	-0.09	5.81	-0.31	5.41	-1.00	5.60	-1.11	
Japan	0.62	-0.03	0.66	-0.17	1.61	-0.96	2.13	-0.94	
Germany	3.56	0.43	3.87	0.60	4.75	-0.92	5.31	-1.16	

## CURRENCIES



Index	Close	Change	Yr Ago	10 Year	20 Year	30 Year
Dollar	1.6560	-0.08c	1.6535	0.6038	+0.17p	0.6048
Mark	3.0166	-0.28p	2.9249	1.8221	+0.50p	1.7530
Yen	234.70	+44.49	191.82	141.63	+93.01	114.43
E index	107.10	+0.00	101.70	112.50	0.00	102.80

## OTHER INDICATORS

Index	Close	Chg	Yr Ago	10 Year	20 Year	30 Year
Brent Oil (\$)	11.98	0.18	18.72	11.48	11.48	11.48
Gold (\$)	293.90	-2.60	331.15	293.90	293.90	293.90
Silver (\$)	5.45	-0.08	4.84	5.45	5.45	5.45

## TOURIST RATES

Country	Rate	Country	Rate
Australia (\$)	2.5967	Mexican (nuevo peso)	13.55
Austria (schillings)	20.58	Netherlands (guilders)	3.2994
Belgium (francs)	60.49	New Zealand (\$)	3.0746
Canada (\$)	2.3686	Norway (krone)	12.53
Cyprus (pounds)	0.8532	Portugal (escudos)	297.71
Denmark (krone)	11.22	Saudi Arabia (riyals)	6.0483
Finland (markka)	8.9480	Singapore (\$)	2.6497
France (francs)	9.8273	Spain (pesetas)	248.30
Germany (marks)	2.9431	South Africa (rand)	9.7460
Greece (drachma)	491.75	Sweden (krone)	13.06
Hong Kong (\$)	12.47	Switzerland (francs)	2.4706
Ireland (pounds)	1.1608	Thailand (bahts)	62.64
India (rupees)	64.52	Turkey (liras)	425.864
Israel (shekels)	5.6254	USA (\$)	1.6214
Italy (lira)	2898		
Japan (yen)	226.48		
Malaysia (ringgits)	6.4463		
Malta (lira)	0.6320		

## Pru sets aside £1.1bn pension compensation

PRUDENTIAL yesterday heaped blame for the £1.1bn pension mis-selling debacle on Mrs Thatcher's last government as it revealed it would set aside £1.1bn to pay compensation - more than four times its original estimate.

Testifying before the Treasury Select Committee, Sir Peter Davis, group chief executive, said the Pru had been pressured by government officials to support a policy of selling personal pensions - despite entertaining serious doubts.

BY ANDREW VERITY

"We were put under a lot of pressure by the government to sell personal pensions. We had considerable doubts about personal pensions and their appropriateness, particularly for people in occupational schemes."

"We were encouraged - I will

use the word no more strongly than that - to sell personal pensions. It was not only the people who sold pensions who bore responsibility for this sort of thing."

Pressed by Jim Cousins, Labour MP for Newcastle Central and a member of the committee, to discuss the nature of the government pressure, Sir Peter said: "There were discussions with officials and members of the government

about our views on personal pensions. It was a clear matter of policy for the government that personal pensions were the future that should be encouraged."

He also said that a multi-million pound television advertising campaign which was spearheaded by the Thatcher government in the late 1980s had "misled many thousands of people".

companied by repeated apologies on the Pru's behalf - drew an astonished reaction from MPs on the committee, who accused him of making excuses for his company.

Brian Sedgemore, MP for Hackney South and Shoreditch, said the Pru had shown "contempt for the democratic process" because of evidence to the committee four years ago by Mick Newmarch, Sir Peter's predecessor. Mr Newmarch

had assured the committee in 1994 that he was "totally reassured" about his company's selling of personal pensions.

"This committee was given, if you will pardon the expression, the biggest load of bullshit it has ever been given," Mr Sedgemore said.

Separately, Sun Life of Canada revealed that it was near-doubling its provision for pension mis-selling compensation to £312m.

## Defence: A new market strategy at GEC could re-open battle for VSEL and Yarrow

# Warship yards 'under review'

BY MICHAEL HARRISON

GEC MAY put its warship yards up for sale as part of its strategy of focussing the business on the high-growth sectors of defence electronics, telecommunications and industrial electronics.

Unveiling better-than-expected profits and a radical reshaping of dividend policy, GEC's managing director, Lord Simpson, said all parts of the business were being reviewed.

As part of the strategy of transforming GEC from an industrial conglomerate into a "high technology, higher margin, high growth company," GEC has also reshaped its distribution policy.

The dividend has been cut and dividend cover raised. Instead, shareholders are being rewarded with a £35m buy-back linked to an innovative free issue of put warrants.

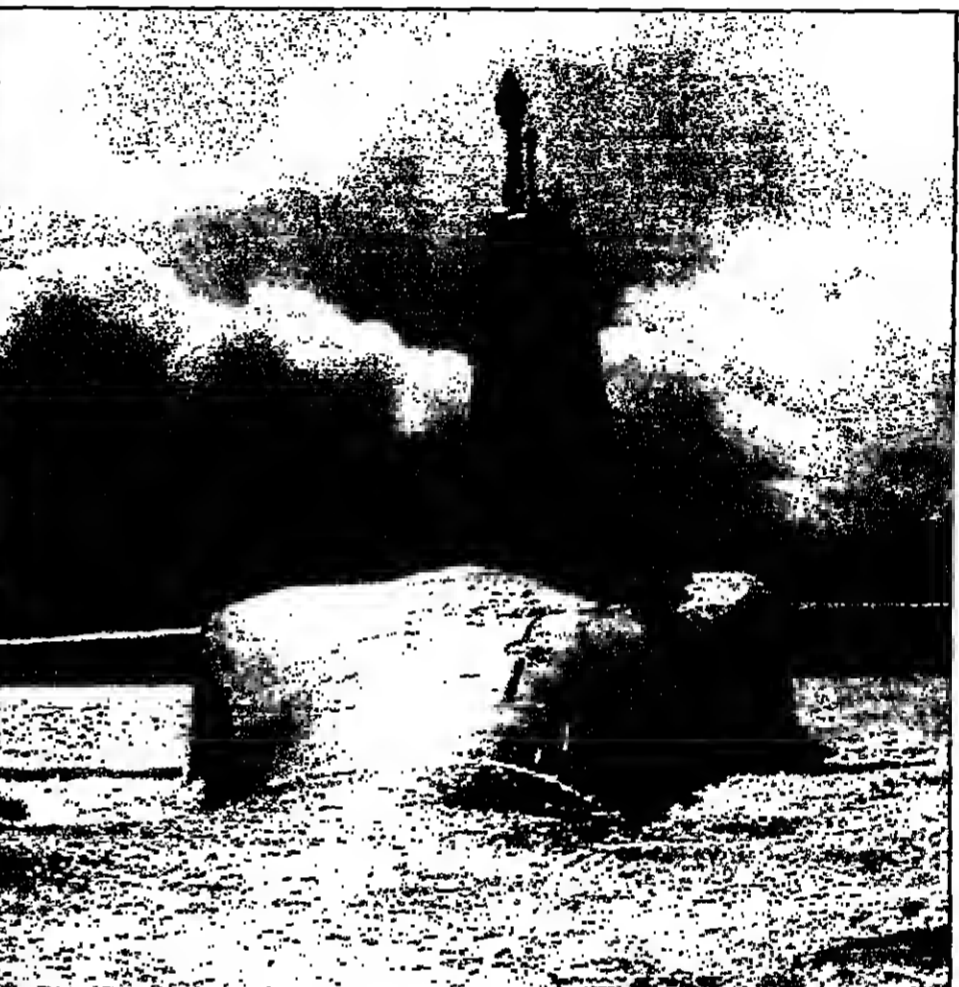
GEC's warship yards consist of the Trident submarine builder VSEL, bought for £795m in 1995 after a freebie bid battle with British Aerospace, and the Yarrow yard on the Clyde, which was taken over in the mid-1990s. Together they accounted for £455m of sales last year-out of a group total of £1.1bn.

John Mayo, GEC's finance director, said that although a disposal was not being actively examined, GEC's focus was to move away from defence "platforms" like warships. His comments cast doubt on the likelihood of a GEC-British Aerospace merger, which would produce a classic marriage of an



electronics and hardware supplier and a platform builder.

Although GEC remains keen to expand its presence in the European defence industry, its focus in the short-term is likely to be in the US, where Lord Simpson is looking for further



Lord Simpson, top left, managing director at GEC, and, below him, the firm's finance director, John Mayo. VSEL, the yard which made HMS Vanguard, right, may soon be sold off.

the purchase from Siemens of 40 per cent of GPT, a telecoms joint venture GEC did not already own, and the Tracor deal.

Lord Simpson said further disposals were likely including the sale of its 50 per cent stake in General Domestic Appliances, which makes Hotpoint and Creda washing machines.

After the rash of deals, GEC's cash pile still stands at more than £1bn while it has a further £4bn of firepower in the shape of a revolving credit facility denominated in euros.

Under the new distribution policy, GEC is giving shareholders a free put warrant entitling them to sell one share back to the company at a £1.50 premium for every 50 they own.

Shareholders who opt not to exercise the warrants will have them auctioned on their behalf and will receive a distribution of 2.5p per share. Together with the dividend for the year, this makes a total payout of 13.93p - a six per cent increase on last year's dividend.

GEC, which was advised on the put warrants by SBC Warburg Dillon Read, said the aim was to achieve the same effect as a share buyback whilst treating all shareholders equally.

Outlook, page 19.

## IT firm's first byte at LSE

BY PETER TRAIL LARSEN

MORSE GROUP, the computer distribution company, is planning to join the stock market in a £800m flotation.

The company, which is the leading UK distributor of powerful Sun Microsystems servers, is conducting a busy parade of investment banks to handle the float.

Managing director Donald McIntyre and fellow directors Nick Read and Richard Styles, who led a management buyout of the company from its founder John Britten in October 1995, are likely to share up to £300m. They have roughly half of the equity in Morse, which was valued at just £48m at the time of the MBO.

Morse has grown rapidly. Sales rose by 52 per cent to £133m in the year to June 1997, while profits almost doubled to £15.6m. In the year just ended, revenues are likely to have hit £200m.

A spokesman for the company said: "Flotation is an option, but no decision has been made yet."

## Sceptics undermine Japan's rescue plan

BY RICHARD LLOYD PARRY in Tokyo

IN A CRUCIAL announcement intended to restore confidence in its flailing economy, the Japanese government formally announced last night the establishment of a "bridge bank" scheme to save the financial system from the burden of 77 trillion yen (£325bn) in bad loans.

The stock market and the yen continued a six-day rally in morning trading, but most of the gains were wiped out in the afternoon, apparently because of growing scepticism among investors as details of the plan leaked out. Business leaders said it lacked vital details and some economists predicted the markets would resume their downward course today.

The need to deal with the bad loans crisis and to wind up effectively insolvent banks has been recognised for several years, but the government has dithered over the best way to close down failed lenders while avoiding a panic among depositors and a credit crunch for healthy businesses.

Under the new scheme, insolvent banks will be taken

over by a government agency and converted into "bridge banks" which will continue to provide lending to credit-worthy customers who might otherwise go bankrupt through an inability to raise money.

"It is critical to restore promptly the orderly functioning of the financial system as the lifeblood of the economy," said the Finance Minister, Hikaru Matsunaga, last night. "The bridge bank scheme... will ensure protection of depositors and the stability of the financial system, enable smooth and prompt management of the financial crisis, and contribute to providing appropriate measures for sound borrowers."

In the first stage of the scheme, the newly-formed Financial Supervision Agency (FSA) will inspect and audit banks and decide whether or not to declare them insolvent. Failed banks will be put under state control, with accountants and managers appointed by the FSA. After a comprehensive

inspection of its books, the bank will be allowed to continue operating for as long as five years, and to provide loans to financially healthy customers. The costs of this operation will be born by tax payers.

During that time, the bank's unambiguously bad loans will be transferred to the state-run Resolution and Collection Bank (RCB) for disposal. Good loans and loans in the so-called "second category" - a marginal group containing recoverable lending as well as bad loans - will be sold off to other viable banks, and what remains of the original bank will be put up for sale. If no purchasers can be found, banks will be nationalised under a holding company. This is most controversial as it looks remarkably like a government bail-out of failed banks using tax payers' money.

The legislation for establishing the plan will not be in place until September, raising suspicions that the entire scheme is simply a holding exercise designed to buy time before an election next week and to placate international critics.

## Derivatives 'flaws' at UBS

BY LEA PATERSON

THE SWISS banking watchdog has criticised risk controls at UBS, following its year-long investigation into derivatives losses at the bank.

The Swiss Federal Banking Commission (FBC) said there were "a number of flaws and weak spots" in control procedures at UBS, whose Global Equity Derivatives (GED) unit sustained losses of Sfr625m (£250m) in 1997. The watchdog said UBS management had failed to address problems with the necessary vigour.

UBS, which gave details of the losses for the first time yesterday, said it was "satisfied" with the report. "This puts an end to speculation about the size of the losses and the related responsibilities," the company said.

Sfr120m of the Sfr625m of losses incurred by the UBS's GED unit were caused by an error in a pricing model. Losses of Sfr275m were sustained in proprietary trading of Japanese convertible bonds, while losses of Sfr80m followed unexpected changes in UK tax legislation. The remaining Sfr150m was lost following last year's volatility on the international financial markets.

UBS, whose merger with SBC was formally completed earlier this week, said the new organisation was structured "so as to comply fully with the FBC's requirements".

## AROUND THE WORLD'S MARKETS

### LONDON

A BUOYANT session for telecom shares helped Footsie achieve a 40.3 points gain to 5,980.2 in busy trading with share turnover topping the one billion mark.

Shares also drew strength from hopes of an Asian revival following Japan's banking rescue scheme. Last month's disappointing shop sales were another influence. Gilt were firm. The telecom excitement was partly due to good subscriber figures for Orange mobile phone group, which surged 33p to a new peak of 680p. Derek Pain, page 21

### NEW YORK

THE DOW suffered a bout of mild profit-taking ahead of a long holiday weekend and was down 17 points at 8031 by the London close. But investors were cheered by tame US payrolls and average earnings numbers indicating US interest rates may continue to stay on hold for the time being. The yen slipped to below 141 to the dollar from around 138 in morning trade as details of Japanese banking reform were largely in line with market expectations.

### TOKYO

STOCKS rose for the seventh day in a row amid hopes that the Government means business with its plans to boost Japan's ailing banking system. Despite profit-taking, the Nikkei index closed 108.69 points up at 16,471.58 after briefly touching 16,743.36.

Dealers were waiting to see details of Government plans to wind up failed banks without bankrupting sound creditors. Fund managers were cheerfully predicting that the bull run could continue until the July 12 elections.

### THAILAND

ONE YEAR after the devaluation of the Thai baht triggered the Asian crisis, stronger Far Eastern markets and a decision to hold interest rates by the Federal Reserve helped to keep Thai shares firm. The upward trend was stimulated by the purchase of a stake in the Electricity Generating power company by Hong Kong's CLP Holdings. The energy sector gained 10 per cent, leading the composite SET index 10.65 points or 4 per cent higher at 277.98.

### SOUTH AFRICA

SOUTH AFRICA's rand sank to a new low of 6.26 against the dollar, equal to 10.2 against the pound, on switching into dollars after the Reserve Bank agreed a slight easing of interest rates and disclosed that its net overseas foreign exchange position widened by \$4.6 billion in June. The stock market was saved from a similar fall by a strengthening of gold stocks, anticipating higher dollar income for mining companies. The all-share index rose 99 points or 1.45% to 6,921.1.

# June rains put a temporary damper on sales

POOR WEATHER contributed to a slowdown in retail sales growth in June, the Confederation of British Industry (CBI) said yesterday.

Last month's sales were significantly below retailers' expectations and business levels were well below average for the time of year. Footwear and leather retailers were among the worst hit.

Alastair Eperon, chairman of

BY LEA PATERSON

the CBI's distributive trades survey panel, said: "The slowdown in most retail sectors is almost certainly weather-related and may also reflect last month's interest rate rise and general economic uncertainty."

Some City economists speculated that the World Cup could also have hit sales, with consumers preferring to watch

football than go shopping.

Sterling fell against the mark shortly after publication of the survey, but quickly regained earlier losses to close at DM13.02, marginally up on the day.

The recent strength of the pound reflects concerns about another hike in interest rates, possibly as soon as next week when the Bank of England's rate-setting Monetary Policy Committee (MPC) meets.

Willem Buiter, one of the MPC's nine members, yesterday fanned fears of a rate hike, saying that the Bank of England had to keep interest rates high as long as domestic demand remained strong.

Economists were divided about the likely impact of the CBI survey on the MPC's impending rate decision. Some said the survey pointed to a dampening of consumer de-

mand, while others said the underlying trend was steady.

The net balance of retailers reporting year-on-year increases in sales volumes in June was 19 per cent, down from 25 per cent in May. A third of retailers had been expecting to report year-on-year sales increases in June, and 27 per cent of retailers said they expected sales to increase in July.

A net balance of 14 per cent

of retailers said sales were below average for the time of year, the worst reading on this measure since October 1995.

Richard Iley, of ABN Amro, noted the underlying trend in sales was still quite robust. He commented: "The survey supports our view that consumer demand will slow only modestly this year, helping to ensure a soft landing for the economy."

Mr Iley added that compar-

ing sales in June 1998 with those in June 1997 could overstate the extent of any slowdown, as June 1997 sales were unusually high following payment of "windfalls" from building society demutualisations.

Overnight, a MORI poll showed 36 per cent of people felt economic conditions would get worse over the next year, double the number looking for an improvement.

## IN BRIEF

### Tradepoint clear for US dealing

SHARES IN Tradepoint Financial Networks, which provides an alternative equity trading system to the London Stock Exchange, gained nearly 30 per cent to close up 6p at 26.5p on news that the US Securities and Exchange Commission has cleared the system for direct use by US investors. SEC clearance boosted the stock because - for the first time - US institutions will be allowed to deal with the UK exchange directly rather than through intermediaries.

Volumes on the system are expected to rise significantly, especially as US investors are used to dealing with an order-driven trading system.

### Liffe hits record

LIFFE, London's futures and options exchange, traded a record 109 million contracts during the first half of 1998, 8 per cent higher than in the first half of 1997. But Liffe is still losing volume in the German government bond future (Bund). The DTB, the electronic German futures exchange, has won the bulk of Bund trade from Liffe.

### Oil tax warning

HIGHER TAXES on the North Sea oil and gas industry could cripple companies that supply goods and services, putting up to a third out of business and eliminating up to 75 per cent of jobs they provide. This warning, from the Offshore Contractors Association, is based on the assumption that the oil and gas industry might cut back as much as 50 per cent on purchases from supplier companies. OCA says there is already a noticeable slowdown in exploration and appraisal with drilling rig use down to half average activity.

### US jobless rise

THE UNEMPLOYMENT rate in the US rose to 4.5 per cent in June from 4.3 per cent in May, the Labor Department said. Non-farm payroll employment rose by 205,000. The consensus forecast of Wall Street economists had been for the non-farm payroll to rise by 196,000 and for the unemployment rate to remain unchanged at 4.3 per cent. In May, non-farm payrolls were revised to a gain of 309,000, previously reported as a 296,000 gain.

### Rail acts on bug

RAILTRACK HAS suspended some information technology projects in order to tackle the Year 2000 computer problem. The company is reported to have allocated 60 staff and up to £10m after suspending 44 IT projects in May to focus resources on tackling the millennium bug. The report, in *Computer Weekly*, quoted Railtrack's Year 2000 director, Nick Pearce, as saying the resources will tackle embedded systems.

### Export database

THE UK'S first government-supported National Exporters Database has been launched on the Internet. The Dialog Corporation will operate the database, which is phase one of a Trade UK project on behalf of the Department of Trade and Industry.

### Midland rates

MIDLAND BANK yesterday put up rates paid to savers by up to 0.6 per cent and raised its variable-rate mortgage rates, but maintained its fixed-rate mortgage offers at unchanged rates. Standard mortgage rates rise to 8.95 per cent on sums under £50,000 and 8.85 per cent on sums up to £100,000.

## Swiss bank fury at boycott threat

A BITTER trade row was threatening to erupt last night between Switzerland and the United States after officials from at least two US states said they were planning to push ahead with a boycott of Swiss banks over the still unresolved issue of returning assets to victims of the Holocaust.

Both New York and California indicated that they would be implementing the boycotts after a meeting in Manhattan on Wednesday of 800 state and local officials from across the US to discuss the Nazi gold affair. The banks most notably in their sights are the Credit Suisse Group and UBS.

In an angry response, the banks warned yesterday that they may withdraw an offer already on the table to pay a blanket \$600m to settle claims against them from Holocaust victims and their heirs. The Swiss government also appealed to Washington to in-

BY DAVID USBORNE  
in New York

clared: "These kinds of sanctions are counterproductive, unjustified and illegal. They constitute a danger to the good bilateral relations between Switzerland and the United States."

Officials from both sides of the dispute spent Wednesday discussing the issue before the gathering of state officials in New York. Afterwards, California's State Treasurer, Matt Fong, said all dealings with the banks would be suspended. The New York State comptroller, Carl McCall, said his state's sanctions would take effect in 45 to 60 days unless a settlement was reached.

As a first step, New York would probably ban the banks from underwriting state government bonds and reject any bids from them for overnight deposits of surplus government money. In the longer term, the state would shed all shares in Swiss companies from city and state pension funds.

The New York City comptroller, Alan Hevesi, yesterday said measures he was planning would involve "in different stages, cutting off both the banks and subsequently other businesses from doing business" in the city.

"It's not just an issue of dormant accounts," he went on. "There's all kinds of other property, real estate and jewelry that was owned by Holocaust survivors and heirs."

The row is embarrassing for Washington, which is making no secret of its disapproval of what the states are doing. "State and local sanctions in this matter are wrong both in principle and practice," Stuart Eizenstat, the Under Secretary of State, said in a statement to the officials. He said he hoped the parties would resume their talks as soon as possible "in a non-coercive atmosphere".

The US Ambassador to Bern, Madeleine Kumin, was similarly disappointed. In a statement yesterday, she said: "What has been overlooked in this discussion are the concrete steps that Switzerland has taken to search out dormant accounts and to examine its World War Two history."



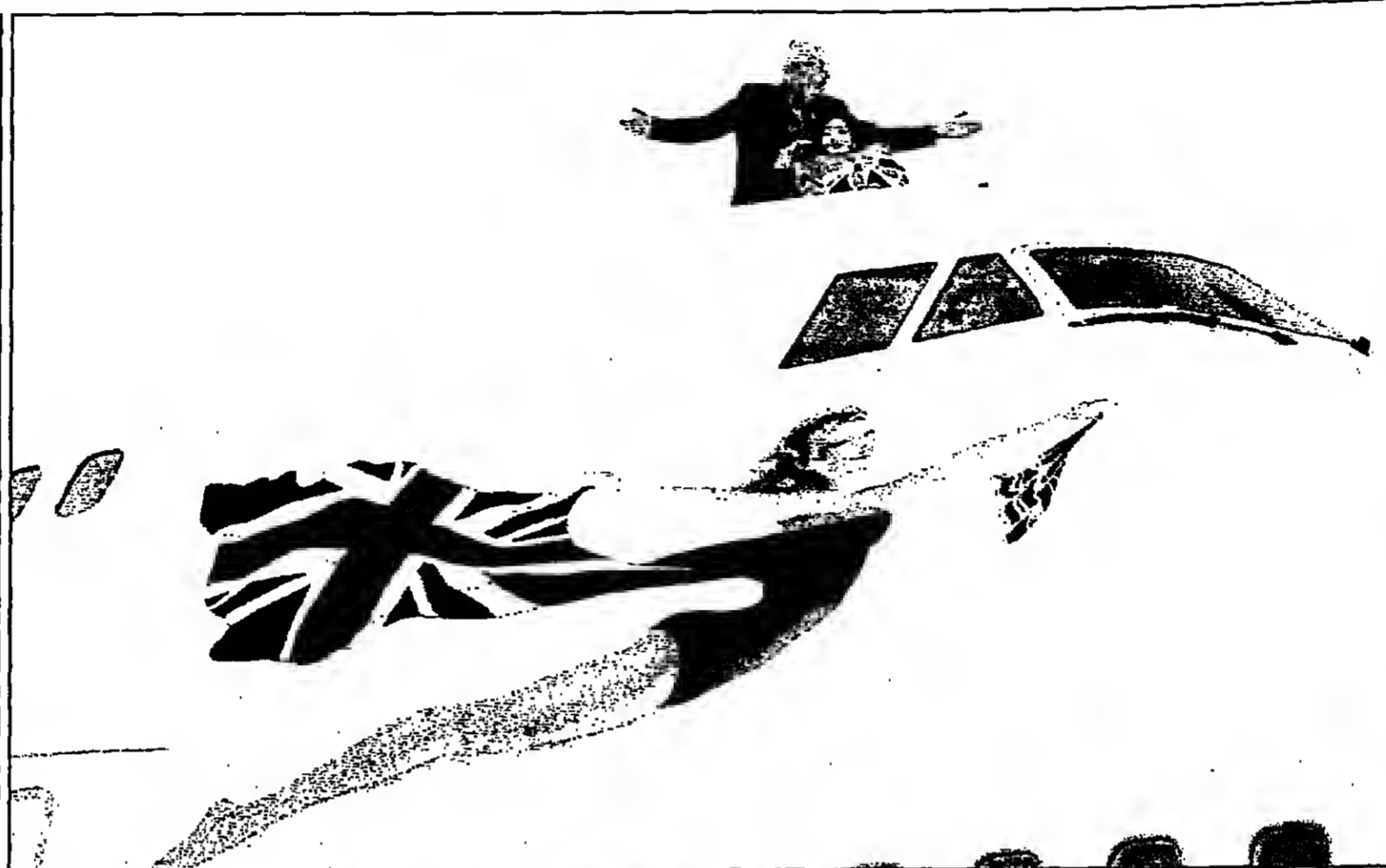
Paul Volcker: Examining accounts  
Poppert/Photo

tervene to block any such boycotts.

"We are examining measures, and that can go towards our offer to negotiate, and that can also go towards taking legal steps against the states which initiate boycotts," said a spokesman for Credit Suisse.

The banks have also pledged to return all the money in dormant accounts which are now being sought out by an independent panel set up by banks and Jewish organisations, headed by Paul Volcker, the former Federal Reserve head. The World Jewish Congress, however, is seeking payment of \$1.5bn.

In a statement, the Swiss Federal Council, the equivalent of the government cabinet, de-



Richard Branson hopes the sky could be the limit for Virgin Atlantic if he can raise cash to fund expansion plans.

## Branson bid to fund Virgin expansion

BY TREVOR WEBSTER

RICHARD BRANSON'S Virgin Atlantic airline is planning to appoint bankers to advise it on raising money for a period of faster expansion over the next two-three years.

It will involve new aircraft, new routes to the Caribbean, the Far East, South Africa and North America and possibly the launch of a domestic airline in the United States.

Virgin, which made around £80 million profits over the last year and is generating a lot of money at present, has been

able to finance expansion internally up to now, but is looking to raise hundreds of millions for its next expansion phase.

It is considering a range of options for this period. The new money could possibly come from a flotation of Virgin Atlantic, which would value the airline at around £1.2 billion, but it is more likely to be raised through a big bond issue on both sides of the Atlantic.

Branson is talking to three

or four banks this summer, but has not yet appointed advisers and a decision on fund-raising is months away.

He has announced three new routes to the Caribbean islands of St Lucia, Antigua and Barbados, which will be launched this autumn, and signalled a new service to Cape Town next spring.

Virgin is also applying for new Far Eastern routes to Shanghai, Beijing and Bombay to add to its existing Asian services to Hong Kong and

Tokyo. It also sees new expansion possibilities across the Atlantic, whether or not the British Airways-American Airlines link-up finally gets the go-ahead from US regulators, and has been talking to companies in America about starting up a new cut-price domestic airline there along the lines of its European venture, the Brussels-based Virgin Express.

Rising fares in the US market suggest an opportunity for the British airline, though US regulators might block it, pend-

ing a new "open skies" agreement between Britain and America.

Branson has revived his links with the City after the brief flotation of the Virgin business in the 1980s through the flotation of Virgin Express on the Brussels and Nasdaq Exchanges, and his stake in the Victory clothing business.

A flotation of Virgin Atlantic remains a possibility, with its profits likely to move towards £100m this year, but it seems unlikely before 1999.

## Names offered cash to sell out

BY ANDREW VERITY

LOYD'S OF LONDON took another step away from the centuries-old practice of unlimited liability yesterday as Wellington Underwriting, the specialist insurance fund, offered to buy a £175m slug of business from names.

The deal is set to mark a further erosion in the control of names over the market. Two years ago, names underwrote 60 per cent of the market's £10bn capacity. Now their share is less than 40 per cent.

Names with syndicate 2020, which holds £400m of the underwriting capacity at Lloyd's, will be offered cash or shares in a deal worth £38.5m in exchange for selling out to Wellington.

If names agree to the offer Wellington, a listed company, will get a 67 per cent controlling



Wellington's managing director Julian Avery (left) and chairman Ian Agnew

stake in 2020, which is likely to be the largest syndicate in the market next year.

Ian Agnew, chairman of Wellington, said: "We hope that names who no longer wish exposure to unlimited liability will take this opportunity to continue to participate in Wellington's underwriting through ownership of its shares."

A spokesman for Wellington said names increasingly accepted that they were better off abandoning unlimited lia-

bility and buying into commercial Lloyd's companies as shareholders.

As it is back the case for selling out, many Lloyd's syndicates are predicting losses in the market for this year. World-wide competition in the insurance market has brought premiums down to rock bottom levels and squeezed syndicates' profit margins.

Some corporate members of Lloyd's are keen to replace the commission earned from run-

ning syndicates with the profits earned from owning them.

However, the process of buying out names carries heavy costs. While names will receive a maximum of £38.5m under Wellington's offer, the company has to raise £120m of capital to back insurance policies no longer covered by the personal assets of names.

To finance this, Wellington needs to raise £40m in a rights issue plus a further £80m in debt facilities.

## Metroline buys London rival

BY FRANCESCO GUERRERA

MTL is owned by 2,500 Liverpool-based bus drivers and their families. It operates bus businesses on Merseyside and the regional railway franchise in the North-East of England.

Metroline, one of the 10 London bus companies privatised in 1991, will finance part of the London Northern acquisition through a £21.5m rights issue, which will give existing shareholders two new shares for every five old shares.

London Northern operates 46 bus lines in north London, and the proximity of many of its routes to Metroline's operations will enable the combined group to offer a seamless service to passengers in most of

the northern part of the capital. The addition of London Northern will almost double Metroline's share of the London bus market, making it the fourth-largest operator in the capital with 13 per cent of the city's routes.

Arriva is the market leader in London with 25 per cent of the market, followed by Go-Ahead and Stagecoach.

London Northern will add 430 buses to Metroline's 480-strong fleet.

Declan O'Farrell, the chief executive of Metroline, said the company was interested in making further acquisitions and was looking at expanding outside London, and into other forms of transport.

"We want to be bigger, we

want more than 13 per cent in London. We want to move outside the capital and we also want to move to other means of transport," he said.

There would be "fewer than 30" job losses among the combined workforce of 2,500. Mr O'Farrell said. He added that those would come exclusively from head office staff.

Metroline is likely to close London Northern's headquarters in the near future and transfer most of the staff to its own offices.

## informative:

With effect from 3 July 1998 the following interest rates will apply:

TESSA					
All credit balances 8.00% p.a. (Tax free)					
High Interest Savings Account (including 30 Day Account)					
Credit Interest	Gross % p.a.	Gross CAR % p.a.	Net % p.a.	Net CAR % p.a.	
£1 to £2,499	4.25	4.25	3.30	3.45	
£2,500 to £4,999	4.75	4.75	3.80	3.95	
£5,000 and over	5.25	5.25	4.20	4.35	
Direct Interest Savings Account					
Credit Interest	Gross % p.a.	Gross CAR % p.a.	Net % p.a.	Net CAR % p.a.	
£1 to £2,499	0.50	0.50	0.40	0.40	
£2,500 to £4,999	1.75	1.75	1.40	1.40	
£5,000 to £9,999	6.95	6.95	5.48	5.58	
£10,000 and over	7.10	7.10	5.68	5.80	

Tax free: the rate payable where the interest is exempt from the tax applicable to interest on savings.

Gross: the rate before the deduction of tax applicable to interest on savings.

Net: the rate after the deduction of tax on interest, currently 20%.

CAR: Compound Annual Rate is the true gross/net return if the interest payments are reinvested in the account.

First Direct is a division of Midland Bank plc.

Member HSBC Group

### MURRAY VENTURES PLC

(Incorporated in Scotland under the Companies Act 1985 with registered number SC48779)

Notice is hereby given that the register of members of Murray Ventures PLC will be closed on

3 July 1998  
(at close of business)

By order of the Board

Murray Johnstone Limited,  
Secretary

Registered Office:  
7 West Nile Street,  
Glasgow,  
G1 2PX

3 July 1998

# GEC turns ninety degrees starboard

GEC as a high-growth, high-margin, high-tech stock? Pull the other one. Shareholders who have lived with a dull old yield stock and an underperforming share price to match for as long as they care to remember must be rubbing their eyes in disbelief.

It has taken Lord Simpson the best part of 18 months to craft the shiny new GEC Mark II. But now that it is finally emerging from the crusty old shell he inherited from Lord Weinstock, the new model is beginning to look the part. Since the early spring, when Lord Simpson began to turn his blueprint for GEC into reality with a welter of deals, the share price has risen by a third, comfortably outperforming the market.

The extent to which GEC has been transformed should not be underestimated. Businesses with a combined turnover of £1bn have been disposed of, the rail business Alstom has been floated, GEC has made its first big strike into the US defence electronics sector, and the messy co-habitation in telecoms with Siemens has been resolved.

The series of joint ventures set up by Lord Simpson's predecessor, partly as a defence mechanism



OUTLOOK

against unwelcome suitors, has been unravelled. When the change of the guard took place in September, 1996, more than half of the group's sales and profits were generated through joint ventures.

Today that figure is 15 per cent. Despite splashing out £1.5bn on acquisitions, the cash pile is higher today than a year ago and with a war chest approaching £5bn, GEC is well-placed for further sorties. Northrop Grumman and Lockheed Martin's misfortune in running into trouble with the US anti-trust authorities could well be to GEC's gain.

The new-look GEC is toying with a new name - Marconi sounds bet-

ter than Creda. Meanwhile it has found a new method of rewarding shareholders and a more efficient way of running its balance sheet. The practical effect of the put warrants announced yesterday will be to lift the distribution this year by a shade more than earnings have increased while reducing the share capital by a further 2 per cent. Supposing the exercise succeeds - and the initial response has been positive - then GEC will adopt this US technique of paying shareholders in capital as well as cash on a permanent basis.

GEC's willingness to do an about turn and dispose of its shipbuilding interests suggests the new regime is not that keen on teaming up with a platform builder like BA after all. The test of Lord Simpson's strategy will be whether the shares can continue their upward ride without the aid of that long awaited merger.

## Boeing still in the race for BA

QUITE a lot of commercial decisions have a political dimension to them but none more so than the imminent

announcement by British Airways on whether to break the habit of a lifetime and place its latest order for aircraft with Airbus Industrie. BA has stuck religiously in the past to Airbus's arch rival, Boeing of the US - a relationship which seems to have served both parties admirably over the years. Any switch would therefore mark a historic turning point. Nonetheless, the time may now have come for BA to show a more Euro friendly face; such an order might be seen as an important gesture in that direction. Psychologically, any such switch would be a big boost to Airbus and a body blow for Boeing.

Next week, Karel van Miert, the European competition commissioner is due finally to give his verdict on BA's two year battle to be allowed to set up a code sharing arrangement with American Airlines. The terms set by Mr van Miert are crucial to whether the deal goes ahead. BA has already said that his opening shot - that BA surrender 350 Heathrow takeoff and landing slots without compensation - would be a deal breaker. It is just too high a price to pay.

Since that demand was first put, Mr van Miert seems to have eased

his position a little. The questions now are by how much and will it be enough to allow BA to do the American deal?

So here's the importance of the Airbus card. If BA orders from Airbus, might it not persuade Mr van Miert to make the necessary compromise? Legally, the order could have no bearing whatsoever on what Mr van Miert decides, but we all know that in practice it might. It is only possible to speculate on what secret deals take place behind closed doors in smoke filled rooms on the other side of La Manche.

By the same token, however, Boeing and the US competition authorities would scream blue murder if there was even the remotest suspicion of chicanery. US regulators have also yet to clear the American Airlines link up and the American market is in any case as important to BA as the European one. In other words, the politics of the order kick both ways.

In these circumstances, BA would be foolish to take the decision on anything other than strictly commercial criteria. Price and quality are the only considerations that should be brought to bare. If they are applied fairly then Airbus is cer-

tainly in with a better chance than it has ever had in the past, when there was a strong preference for Boeing whatever the Airbus bid. This time round the two bids were said to be too close to call. That's compounded speculation that BA will opt for Airbus. Don't count on it, though. According to insiders, there's been a late counter from Boeing which some see now as quite clearly the better bid. Nail biting stuff.

## No end yet for Japan's misery

THE roller coaster of Japan's financial markets continues apace. Down one day, up the next, there have been so many false dawns in the Japanese economy over the past five years that all count of them was lost long ago. Is this latest uptick in the markets just another, or is there good cause for hope this time round?

The package of measures announced yesterday to bail out the banks is certainly an advance of sorts and will undoubtedly help shore up the financial sector. But are arranged mergers and nation-

alisations really the way forward?

Certainly they are not a formula for necessary reform, which can only truly be brought about if bad banks are allowed to go bust. The Japanese government is not prepared to do that. And without such "moral hazard", the bad old, inefficient, semi corrupt ways of the past will merely persist. The markets are therefore wrong to read into this package of measures any kind of a panacea. Rather the reverse. Using tax payers' money to subsidise the financial system is as misguided and flawed a strategy as state aid is for industry.

Then there is the less tangible - rumours of a big deflationary package in the making. Now how many times have you heard that before? With an election pending, it is the sort of thing politicians are bound to promise. In Japan, these packages invariably wheed eventually they arrive tend to be less than expected and certainly less than needed. In any case, the downward deflationary spiral in Japan is so bad it is not plain tax cuts, however deep, are going to do the trick. One day Japan will dig itself out of the mire. But don't believe this is the turning point.

## News Analysis: A profit warning from John Haggas is the latest blow to an industry worn down by the strong pound



The textile industry faces problems of falling demand as well as the strong pound. John Houlahan/Guzelian

# Textiles stretched to breaking point

JOHN HAGGAS, the West Yorkshire spinner and fabric maker, added to the deepening gloom in the British textile sector yesterday by signalling serious trouble at the mill.

It warned that its 1997-98 profits will plunge to an eight-year low of £1m, compared with half-year profits of £700,000, last year's £2.2m and analysts' earlier forecasts of £1.5m for the year to June.

Haggas shares, which have already sagged a long way below last October's peak of 108p, fell another 19.5p to 48.5p.

Though bad enough in isolation, the news is more disturbing in a wider context. It sheds more uncomfortable light on the tough times that have suddenly developed at the sharp end of manufacturing and exporting, caught between a sky-high pound, high interest rates and faltering consumer demand.

It might be premature to call it recession, but it is a long way from the post-election euphoria the country was swimming in a year ago, when it was awash with promises of economic wonders and the benefits of big building society windfalls.

Investors ignore this trend at their peril because it is growing ominously and scarring more companies by the week. Haggas follows half a dozen other textile companies, including Dawson International, of Pringle sweater fame, Coats Virella, Claremont Garments and Robert Lowe, in exposing some pain recently.

Other industries like engineering and retailing have started to suffer in a similar way from high interest rates and the strong pound. Retailers like MFI, DFS and Allied Carpets have signalled that the worst impact has come

BY TREVOR WEBSTER

in furniture and carpets so far. But some clothing chains have also sounded worried and there are even whispers that summer trading at Marks & Spencer has been less than buoyant.

Isolated in the domestic economy, housebuilders have been enjoying booming profits so far, but house price inflation is now falling in a way that must impact on their earnings later this year.

The textile industry has suffered hard times on and off for many years, but rarely as badly as now. The three main threads of Haggas' current agony are the strength of the pound, a collapse in demand for knitwear and the state of some of its main UK customers.

Falling demand for knitwear might be a fashion statement by today's youth in favour of T-shirts, sports clothing, anoraks and trainers at the expense of

traditional clothing, but the strong pound and problems at Haggas' customers, the weavers and clothing manufacturers, are more deep-seated.

They are due to high interest rates and turmoil in the Far East, which is flooding world markets with cheap goods made in lands struggling with recession and devalued currencies.

Executive chairman Brian Haggas says the textile industry is "a bit shell-shocked". The strong pound is hitting both the home and export markets of the business by directly inflating export prices and cutting the price of imports.

He is relieved that the company is still making sizeable profits, that its main export markets are in Europe, not the Far East, and that the 100 jobs shed by his company over the past year might be enough for a while.

Not all British textile companies are so lucky. Dawson said this week it will have to close two factories and lose 720 jobs, while Robert Lowe is thinking of getting out of the textiles sector.

The textile industry has had to live with too strong a pound for too long. It soared from 2.20 German marks in 1996 to 3.10 in early 1998 as interest rates rose steadily through the last days of the Tory government and the first year of Labour. And just as it seemed to be retreating below the DM3 level this spring, along came the Bank of England with another interest rate rise.

Two years ago Haggas' exports were booming to the point where it was even selling fabric knitwear to Hong Kong. Mr Haggas believed a year ago that he was learning to live with a strong pound as the company diverted exports to less sensitive areas like North Africa, the Middle East and Eastern Europe. Now he can't see any early relief.

He says his business might be able to live with an exchange rate of DM2.7-2.8, but would really like DM2.6. That requires a sizeable cut in interest rates, whereas another rise is still being canvassed in some quarters.

Manufacturers far and wide would echo that view. This week's survey from the Chartered Institute of Purchasing and Supply shows manufacturing industry's orders are falling at their fastest rate for two and a half years and it is shedding jobs at the fastest rate for five years. Its share of the national economy has fallen to a fifth.

It is as if manufacturers have been forgotten in the rush for economic rectitude and consigned to the knacker's yard.

## Join euro, says MPC member

WILLEM BUTTER, a member of the Bank of England's Monetary Policy Committee (MPC), yesterday made a strong case for UK participation in the single currency.

Professor Butter called Gordon Brown's five economic tests of European Monetary Union (EMU) "sufficiently broad and vague as to have no real operational content".

Speaking in a personal capacity at a CEPR/Morgan Stanley seminar, Professor Butter said any attempt by the UK to re-enter the Exchange Rate Mechanism (ERM) prior to joining EMU would be "an accident waiting to happen".

He predicted that the UK would join EMU "as soon as a referendum on the issue can be won and as soon as existing EMU members are willing to let

the UK join". He outlined a series of costs to the UK of staying out, including "second fiddle status in the political concert of Europe" and "damage to London's position as an international financial centre".

Professor Butter said the Government's five economic preconditions for UK membership of EMU were open to interpretation. He said: "When the day comes, proponents of EMU will argue that all five have been met. Opponents will assert the UK flunks all five."

The professor also criticised the compromise over the presidency of the new European Central Bank (ECB), calling it a "rogues' agreement". He emphasised the need for transparency at the new bank.

## Vauxhall plant adds 1,000 jobs

VAUXHALL IS recruiting an extra 1,000 workers for its Ellesmere Port car plant on Merseyside to cope with increased demand for the new Astra model. This is the second vote of confidence in the area following Ford's decision to select Halewood to produce its new small Jaguar car.

The extra workers are being hired as the Ellesmere Port plant introduces a third shift which will raise production capacity from 120,000 to 180,000 cars a year. The Astra is already built at two other General Motors plants on the Continent.

The strength of the pound has made exports from Ellesmere Port less competitive. But Nick Reilly, the chairman of Vauxhall, said a third shift was justified because of a recent £300m investment in

the plant and improved levels of performance.

Earlier this year, Vauxhall workers accepted a three-year pay deal linked partly to the sterling-Deutschmark exchange rate. If the pound falls to DM2.70 for two consecutive months the workforce will be entitled to an extra 0.5 per cent increase in the third year.

The extra jobs at Ellesmere Port take the workforce to 5,200. Vauxhall said recruitment would begin immediately and hoped to introduce the third shift as early as October.

Margaret Beckett, President of the Board of Trade, welcomed the announcement as "a massive vote of confidence in Merseyside and the UK as a centre for car production".

THIS WEEK IN THE SEVEN-SECTION

INDEPENDENT

Simply Red

'Every time those ghastly little spin doctors leak against me, it builds my rating ... my career has been revived in its entirety by the Blairites'

Cole Moreton meets Ken Livingstone, the man New Labour loves to hate



# Footsie up as investors dial telecoms

INVESTORS DIALLED into telecoms again, sending shares of the four leading British players soaring to new highs.

Orange, with encouraging subscriber figures, was largely responsible for the latest charge. Enthusiastic analyst comments helped, so did the ever-present feeling that more corporate activity will soon erupt.

BT's decision to reduce the cost of calling Cellnet and Vodafone mobile phones from BT lines was another factor. The four mobile phone companies will now be charged identical rates.

In often busy trading Cable & Wireless led the way with a 43p jump to 790p. Orange gained 33p to 860p, Vodafone 23p to 819p and BT 20p to 665p.

Vodafone attracted some heavy forecasts. SG Securities and HSBC suggested a 1,040p target; Lehman Brothers went for 850p and BT Alex Brown aimed for 1,100p over two years.

Securicor, owning 40 per cent of Cellnet with BT accounting for the rest, put on 21p to 511p.

The busy phone lines helped lift

## MARKET REPORT



DEREK PAIN

Footsie 40.3 points to 5,960.2. At one time the index was up 76.8. The supporting indices also made headway although the small cap index had to be content with a modest 1.4 advance to 2,601.7. With turnover topping 1 billion shares, the stock market had a decidedly confident appearance.

Growing hopes that the worst of the Asian crisis is over and lower shop sales, suggesting an easing of pressure for higher interest rates, were other favourable influences.

It is surprising that as the flow of profit warnings goes on and

doubts continue to grow about the economy slowing down, Footsie should mudge 6,000, only 145.5 from its peak.

Other blue chips enjoying the fun included the bus and train group Stagecoach, up 46p to 1,324p following an SBC Warburg push, and British Aerospace, 13.5p higher at 486.5p with CSFB saying the shares were around 40 per cent undervalued. A rumoured US order for 30 Airbus Industrie aircraft also helped.

BG, on the BT Alex Brown 440p forecast, remained in demand, hitting a 363p peak with a 7p gain.

Retailers, however, were ruffled by the cautious Confederation of British Industry survey, showing shop sales slowed last month, one of the wettest Junes on record.

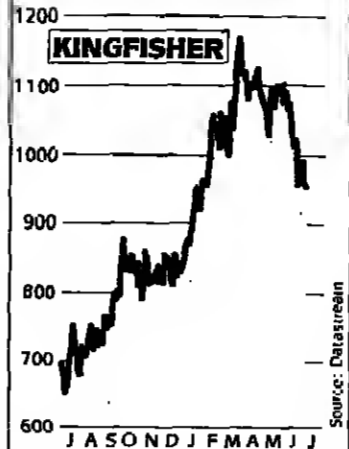
Kingfisher fell 6p (after 20p) to 955p and Marks & Spencer 3p to 548p.

Financials, once responsible for powering Footsie, were subdued with Halifax off 14p at 790p and Standard Chartered 19p at 704p.

Acorn Computer held at 135.5p. The 14.3 per cent sold by Italy's Olivetti has gone to Lehman Brothers

## SHARE SPOTLIGHT

share price, pence



Source: Datastream

which, presumably intends to dilute the shares as it has in earlier Olivetti disposals. Acorn has a significant minority stake in ARM, the computer chip maker which this week joined the mid cap index.

Two share placements helped inflate volume. More than 10.6 per cent of the marketing group Taylor Nelson Sofres was placed by Cazenove at 120p a share on behalf of a French

group, and 8.3 per cent of the computer group Sema was sold by the French Paribas operation at 710p a share. Paribas' stake is now 14.1 per cent. TNS shares hardened 9p to 131p and Sema 5p to 725p.

PizzaExpress held at 860p as Janus, a US fund manager, sold 0.68 per cent, cutting its holding to 9.26 per cent. But TransTec, the engineer related to Geoffrey Robinson, the controversial Paymaster General, has acquired a new US supporter. Baupost, representing US private investors, has put together a 3.88 per cent interest; Mr Robinson has 17.2 per cent. TransTec shares held at 66.5p.

Swallowfield, an aerosol group, and the textile group John Haggas contributed the day's profit warnings. Shares of Swallowfield fell 30p to 123.5p and Haggas was cut 19p to 48.5p. Devro, the sausage skin group which devastated its shares with a profit warning on Wednesday, fell a further 38p to 331.5p. In two days the shares have been skinned 166p.

Kenwood Appliances, the kitchen equipment group, hardened 14p to 110p on director buying and FI, the computer group,

jumped 117.5p to 1,652.5p as Dresdner Kleinwort Benson suggested year-end targets of 1,940p for this year and 2,346p for next.

Banner Homes, in bid talks, finished 17p firmer at 156p. Other house-builders were weak, unsettled by a 7 per cent fall in new housing starts in the three months to May. Zetters, the hingo and pools group where takeover talks recently ended, rose 7.5p to 132.5p. It revealed on Tuesday it was back round the negotiating table.

Old English Pub Co fell 15.5p to 300.5p after its rights issue flopped with shareholders taking up 46.4 per cent and underwriters left with the rest. The company offered shares at 330p; the market price has fallen from 384.5p last month.

The misfortunes at Regent Inns, which rolled out a surprise profit warning last week, has ruffled the market's confidence in the pub companies, which enjoy a heavy rating. Regent, up 4p to 191.5p, was riding at 388.5p last month.

SEAQ VOLUME: 1.06 billion  
SEAQ TRADES: 85,285  
GILT INDEX: 105.26 +0.19

HARD-PRESSED Tradepoint, the miniature stock market, ponched in a 6p gain to 26.5p as the possibility of Americans using its system increased. The US Securities and Exchange Commission has cleared Tradepoint for direct access by US traders and it is likely they will be able to start trading within the next few months. With Americans more comfortable than their British counterparts with order-driven trading Tradepoint hopes its volume will increase significantly. It currently accounts for about 1.5 per cent of stock market turnover; 3 per cent would allow it to break even. It has been a long struggle; the shares topped 180p two years ago.

DISTRIBUTOR Ring softened 1.5p to 30.5p. Melton Medas, the vehicle of Nick Puri, continues to build its stake. It has picked up another 2.95 per cent, taking its interest to 20 per cent. Ring shares once topped 160p; a year ago they were 84.5p.

# Time to stop and think about Sema

WHEN a shareholder in a company unloads a major stake, the share price tends to fall. But not in the information technology sector. Fund managers' hunger for IT shares is so great they will gladly take any extra stock. So when Paribas, the French bank, yesterday sold a third of its 20 per cent stake in Sema, the Anglo-French systems integration group, at an average of 710p, the market eagerly lifted the shares 5p to 725p.

Nevertheless, Paribas' decision to sell should prompt other shareholders to pause for thought. Given the recent rapid rise in information technology shares, isn't this a sign that informed investors are getting out? Paribas has several explanations. Unlike France Telecom, which is clinging firmly to its 23 per cent shareholding, the bank has no strategic reason to hold on to the stock. It is currently selling off all its passive shareholdings. And it has pledged to hold the rest of the shares for at least six months.

But the value of Paribas' stake has also doubled since last July, when Sema resubmitted its shareholder base. Conventional valuations no longer matter: Sema shares now trade on a multiple of 62 times this year's expected earnings, falling to 51 in 1999. Other IT stocks enjoy similar ratings, but they tend to enjoy better organic growth, and have better margins, than Sema.

The group's strategic direction is also open to question. If the IT market is booming, why is it getting involved in outsourcing contracts where it has little opportunity to use its skills? An added risk is that a large equity-funded deal in the US would destroy shareholder value.

Sema shares have had a fantastic run in the past 12 months. But in a frothy IT sector, they look among the most vulnerable. Follow Paribas' lead and sell.

## Bulmer bruised in booze battles

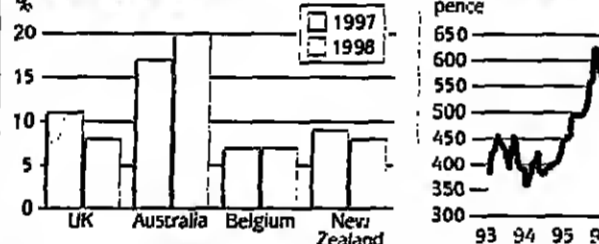
IT HAS BEEN a grim 18 months for investors in HP Bulmer, the Strongbow cider group. At the beginning of 1997 the shares were riding high at well over 600p but a combination of higher duty on cider - introduced in the last year's Budget - a tough market and internal mistakes have dragged the shares down to 346.5p, up 5p yesterday.

## HP BULMER: AT A GLANCE

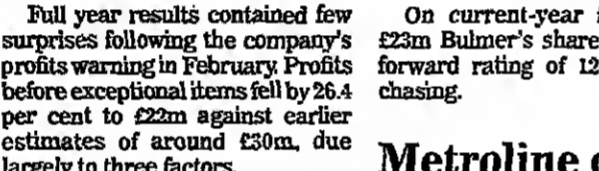
Market value: £193m, share price: 346.5p (+5p)

Trading record	1994	1995	1996	1997	1998
Turnover (£m)	255	247	259	310	298
Pre-tax profits (£m)	3.9	25.0	25.5	29.3	18.9
Earnings per share (p)	-0.9	29.9	29.9	35.2	21.2
Dividends per share (p)	10.8	12.0	13.2	14.5	15.0

### Operating margins



Share price pence



Source: Datastream

Full year results contained few surprises following the company's profits warning in February. Profits before exceptional items fell by 26.4 per cent to £22m against earlier estimates of around £30m, due largely to three factors.

The company raised the price of its white cider brands such as White Lightning by 60p a bottle, expecting rivals to follow suit. They didn't; indeed some cut their prices, leaving Bulmer with shrinking sales. Imports of cheap continental lager hit a peak just before Christmas, dragging consumers away from cider brands. And the final factor was weak management controls which failed to monitor market movements accurately.

Yesterday Bulmer was claiming that all those problems are in the past. Prices of white cider have firmed and supermarkets have halted huge price deals on cheap foreign lager.

Strongbow, its key brand, increased volumes by 10 per cent as Bulmer upped its media spend by £2.2m last year and is rising up the rankings of top drinks brands. Then there is the takeover question. Mike Hughes, the group's new chief executive, admits that he has not Pernod, the French group which is believed to have run its slide rule over Bulmer, but claims, somewhat unbelievably, that this was just part of his efforts to learn more about the industry. He claims there are no current conversations going on and that there have been no approaches.

## INVESTMENT

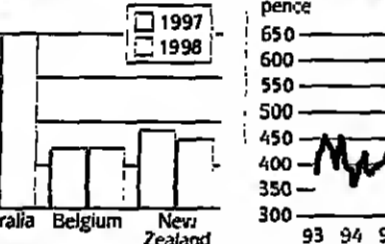
EDITED BY PETER THAL LARSEN

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The company raised the price of its white cider brands such as White Lightning by 60p a bottle, expecting rivals to follow suit. They didn't; indeed some cut their prices, leaving Bulmer with shrinking sales. Imports of cheap continental lager hit a peak just before Christmas, dragging consumers away from cider brands. And the final factor was weak management controls which failed to monitor market movements accurately.

Yesterday Bulmer was claiming that all those problems are in the past. Prices of white cider have firmed and supermarkets have halted huge price deals on cheap foreign lager.

Strongbow, its key brand, increased volumes by 10 per cent as Bulmer upped its media spend by £2.2m last year and is rising up the rankings of top drinks brands. Then there is the takeover question. Mike Hughes, the group's new chief executive, admits that he has not Pernod, the French group which is believed to have run its slide rule over Bulmer, but claims, somewhat unbelievably, that this was just part of his efforts to learn more about the industry. He claims there are no current conversations going on and that there have been no approaches.

On current-year forecasts of £23m Bulmer's shares trade on a forward rating of 12. Not worth chasing.

## Metroline deal makes sense

UNTIL YESTERDAY'S £42m acquisition of its rival London Northern, the takeover strategy of Metroline, the North London bus operator, had made as much progress as one of its double-deckers in the rush hour.

For all its rhetoric about wanting to become a broad-based passenger transport group, Metroline had confined itself to running the business it had when it was privatised in 1994.

Management, which owns around 30 per cent of the company, had increased margins and built a solid, cash-generating business. But with just 7 per cent of the London market, Metroline was looking like a dwarf among giants. The purchase of London Northern doubles the company's market share, turnover and number of buses overnight.

Investors like the deal, to be funded by a two-for-five rights issue to raise £21.5m, and sent the shares 11 per cent higher to 365p. One London Northern is digested, Metroline looks set to expand outside London both in buses and trains. But it also looks an attractive proposition for an overseas group wishing to get a foothold in the UK transport market. Either way the shares, on a lowly 13 times broker Granville Davies's

## IN BRIEF

### Merrydown plunges to £4m loss

MERRYDOWN, the cider maker, said it had plunged to a £4m loss last year caused by a 16 per cent fall in sales of its key brand and a dramatic slump in sales of its Two Dogs alcoholic lemonade. Under its new chief executive, Nigel Freer, the company plans to concentrate on its Merrydown and Shlor brands. The group recorded an operating loss of £400,000. Exceptional costs amounted to £2.1m to cover stock write-downs, redundancies and advisory fees.

### Diageo sells stake

DIAGEO, the drinks business formed from Guinness and Grand Metropolitan, yesterday sold its 49.6 per cent stake in the Irish drinks company Cantrell & Cochrane for an undisclosed sum to Allied Domecq which now owns the complete company. The disposal is part of the undertaking Diageo made to win permission for its merger. Cantrell & Cochrane owns Tullamore Dew whiskey and Ballygowan mineral water and made profits of Ir£52m on sales of Ir£366m last year. It could be worth up to Ir£650m if it was demerged and listed as a separate company, according to industry sources.

### LJ profits hit

THE RECONSTRUCTION and Renewal programme at Lloyd's, the insurance market, hit profits at Leopold Joseph, the UK independent banking group. LJ reported a modest 1.4 per cent rise in pre-tax profits last year, following a drop-off in its Lloyd's business. The group, which restated its commitment to independence, said core private banking revenues increased sharply over the year.

### Winding-up vote

SCOTTISH Asian Investment Company, a Jersey-based investment trust run by Murray Johnstone, faces an early winding-up resolution after its main shareholder, Millennium Offshore Partners, which holds 20.8 per cent of the shares, requisitioned an egm.

Scottish Asian management said on Monday it would ask shareholders to vote on reconstruction plans in October but Millennium said yesterday the timetable would give Murray Johnstone the opportunity to earn more fees while the share price continues to fall. The trust has suffered severely from the Asian economic crisis.

# BG hits the peaks every possible way

WHAT LINKS are there between a company's share price and the activities of its senior management? I pondered this question as BG shares gained another 7p yesterday to finish at 363p, another peak following the gas company's demerger from Centrica two years ago.

Last weekend five teams of BG employees were leading a crowd of other oil and gas bidders on a 24-hour scaling of four of the highest peaks in the land.

The BG Energy Challenge. In aid of children in distress around the world, involved 30 teams of seven from the oil and gas industry tramping up four peaks - Schiehallion in the Highlands, the Old Man of Conistone in Cumbria, Engleborough in the Yorkshire Dales and Y Garn in Snowdonia.

Everyone completed the course, most of them inside 24 hours. Including BG's Frank Chapman, director of exploration and production. John Bennett, group director, research and technology and Steve Lucas, international finance director.

WHATEVER THE merits of leaping around mountains, Dan Collins has quite different ideas about team-building. His executive motivation company, Fresh Tracks, has put its faith in chocolate.

Mr Collins and his colleagues took several pounds of it on board HMS Belfast last week to work with a group of top managers from Sainsbury's.

"I know it sounds wacky," he says, "but there's actually a well-developed strategy behind the idea as well as a sound basis in educational theory."

The Chocolate Experience, as it is called, has already been a hit with Citibank BAA, ITN, Lloyds Bank and Microsoft, says Mr Collins. The idea is to challenge groups of executives to design and produce an innovative box of chocolates under the guidance of a top chef.

Apparently the motivation to produce the chocies is so high that the execs don't even notice that they are

## PEOPLE AND BUSINESS

### BY JOHN WILLCOCK



learning valuable team-building skills and the like.

Well, that's the theory, anyway. It makes a change from the techniques Mr Collins started off with - offering four-wheel driving exercises on location at his farm in Ware, Hertfordshire.

NICE TO see Roger Seelig back in the swing of things. Mr Seelig, a corporate finance star at Morgan Grenfell until he was ignominiously ousted over the Guinness affair, was spotted lunching at the Savoy Grill yesterday.

Who should he bump into but his old colleague Michael Dobson, former chief executive of Deutsche Morgan Grenfell, recently shunted sideways to run the asset management business?

A very friendly conversation ensued. Considering the headlong rush of dissatisfied DMG people to other banks in recent weeks, it would be nice to speculate that Dobbo offered Mr Seelig a job. But there again, perhaps, not.

WHILE ON the subject of restaurateurs, George "Poundbreaker" Soros was seen chomping away at the Cafe du Marche in Charterhouse Square, just north of the City, on Monday.

Good to know that, after the failure of his \$80n punt against sterling

this week, Mr Soros still has enough cash left to do lunch.

RICHARD WOHANKA is leaving Baring Asset Management, the jewel in what is left of Baring's rather battered crown, to join Westdeutsche Landesbank Girozentrale.

Mr Wohanka, 45, will head up WestLB Asset Management, which has operations in France (Banque d'Orsay) and Germany (WestKA) as well as the UK.

FRIENDLY societies, originally set up to help people help themselves, have traditionally had a low profile, but now they are being sucked into the debate about mutualism.

As the Government at last wakes up to the fact that a healthy mutual building society sector will help to provide price competition for the demutualised banks, friendly societies are being drawn into the debate. They do, after all, provide competitive insurance rates to their members.

So, down done Peter Gray, who stood down as chairman of the Tunbridge Wells Equitable Friendly Society this week. The friendly society fraternity turned out in force to say goodbye at a lunch at the Carlton Club in London on Wednesday.

Mr Gray helped to shake up the sleeper side of the movement, and is now going on to become a visiting fellow at the regulatory Policy Institute in Oxford run by Professor George Yarrow in order to pursue his interests in welfare reform.

The Right Honourable Lord Naseby, the former MP Michael Norris, succeeds Mr Gray as chairman of the Tunbridge.

Another member of the "Big Six" friendly societies has a new leadership. Gordon Scott has retired as chairman of the Royal Liver, whose offices are in the famous Royal Liver Building overlooking the Mersey.

Desmond Forshaw steps up from chief executive to chairman, and Brian McCaul in turn succeeds Mr Forshaw.

FOREIGN EXCHANGE RATES				
Country	Sterling Spot	1 month	3 months	D-Mark Spot
UK	1.0000			0.6039
Australia	2.7048	2.7006	2.6917	0.6049
Austria	21.204	21.165	21.063	1.6336
Belgium	62.175	61.963	61.735	12.802
Canada	2.4319	2.4261	2.4149	37.545
Denmark	11.480	11.445	11.375	37.545
ECU	1.9211	1.9166	1.9121	1.4686
France	9.1589	9.1284	9.0664	6.9221
Germany	10.115	10.080	10.009	6.9221
Italy	3.0174	3.0068	2.9765	1.0901
Japan	166.065	165.885	165.695	5.5310
Netherlands	12.832	12.848	12.890	1.0901
Hong Kong	7.756	7.756	7.756	5.5310
Greece	12.004	11.991	11.957	307.89
Ireland	297.010	296.985	296.960	1.0901
Israel	234.46	233.05	230.22	1.0901
Italy	6.9489	6.9250	6.9011	1.0901
Malaysia	14.892	14.892	14.892	1.0901
Mexico	3.2426	3.2356	3.2161	1.0901
Netherlands	3.2212	3.2122	3.2064	1.0901
New Zealand	2.2284	2.2284	2.2284	1.0901
Norway	12.846	12.815	12.757	1.0901
Portugal	308.55	307.955	307.137	1.0901
Singapore	2.8293	2.8287	2.8281	1.0901
South Africa	10.6422	10.6422	10.6422	1.0901
Spain	255.77	255.08	253.62	1.0901
Sweden	13.380	13.342	13.263	1.0901
Switzerland	2.5391	2.5272	2.5031	1.0901
US	1.6560			1.0901

INTEREST RATES				
UK	Base	3 month	6 month	1 year
UK	7.50%			
France	5.50%			
Germany	5.50%			
Italy	5.50%			
Japan	5.50%			
US	5.50%			

BOND YIELDS				
Country	3 mth	1 yr	5 yr	10 yr
Australia	4.50	5.11	5.12	5.25
Belgium	4.50	5.11	5.12	5.25
Canada	4.50	5.11	5.12	5.25
France	4.50	5.11	5.12	5.25
Germany	4.50	5.11	5.12	5.25
Italy	4.50	5.11	5.12	5.25
Japan	4.50	5.11	5.12	5.25
UK	4.50	5.11	5.12	5.25
US	4.50	5.11	5.12	5.25

LIFFE FTSE 100 INDEX OPTION				
Settlement	High	Low	Est floor	Open interest
Contract				
Long Call	105.89	105.89	105.89	129665.00
Short Put	105.89	105.89	105.89	129665.00
Long Put	105.89	105.89	105.89	129665.00
Short Call	105.89	105.89	105.89	129665.00

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FOOTBALL

# SPORT

## The defenders of the Francophones

AROUND THE beginning of the century, the Corinthians Casuals bluntly refused to have any truck with penalties, let alone the later more satanic invention of penalty shoot-outs. When awarded a penalty, they would return the ball in a gentlemanly manner to the referee.

To take a shot at goal from that distance was deemed unsportsmanlike and tantamount to cheating. And now the French are similarly refusing to touch penalties. But this has nothing to do with a sense of "le fair play".

If it should come down to a shoot-out against Italy tonight, the French side are not going to just stand there while the opposition nets five. But, while just a few years ago they would have been taking "un penalty", tonight they could be taking part in "une épreuve de tirs au but" (literally, "a test of shots at goal").



ANDY MARTIN  
AT LARGE IN FRANCE



In the elegant post-mortems on the England-Argentina game carried out in the newspapers, from *Le Monde* to *L'Equipe*, "tir au but" has now become the norm. At St Etienne, the bloke I was standing next assured me that: "in our own club, we still say 'penalty' and not 'tir au but'".

On the other hand, he wouldn't touch 'un coup de pied de coin' with a bargepole, let alone a boot: "That

would be ridiculous - we always say 'un corner'. What are we going to have to say next - 'jeu de pied' or 'jeu de ballon' instead of 'le football'?" France has been long been carrying out a strong rearward action against Anglophone domination. There is an apocalyptic school of thought which maintains that French is on the verge of extinction, swamped by an influx of Hollywoodisms, pop lyrics, and Bill Gates.

There may be those in England - and more especially in the States - who are looking forward to attending the funeral. But reports of its death of this 1,000-year old language are certainly premature.

The General de Gaulle figure standing guard over the battlements is, of course, the Académie Française, founded by Cardinal Richelieu in the seventeenth century to defend "le bon usage". But in the front line of the resistance, the job of actually blowing up anglo-saxonisms goes to the "Délegation générale à la langue française", which is responsible for the "Dictionnaire de termes officiels". This is where you will find 'tir au but' and 'coup de pied de coin' (or, alternatively, 'tir d'angle' under the heading of "termes francophones recommandés" and 'corner' and 'penalty' under "impropriétés et

termes à éviter". There is even a "Ministerial Commission for the Terminology of Sports".

I went to see my old friend, Bernard Cerquiglini, to check out the state of play. Now the head of INALF (Institut National de la Langue Française), he is utterly dedicated to the cause of the French language. But he is a little like one of those judges who has to ask who the Rolling Stones are, because when I mentioned the word 'corner' to him (even with my best possible French accent - 'un cor-naïr'), he said: "A corner - what is that, exactly?" He did, however, understand 'un coup de pied de coin'. But he didn't really approve of it: "That is too long! We must find something shorter."

"Corner," I suggested. "But, 'tir au but'," he said, "that is a different matter, that is much snappier - it really hits the target!"

Bernard has his work cut out at the moment. He is busy "feminizing the professions". That is to say that he is not actually giving out jobs to women, but he is at least making sure that, if they get the jobs, they will be known as women rather than as men.

Until as recently as a year ago, *Le Monde* was capable of writing a paradoxical sentence like this: "Madame le ministre est enceinte" (which translates roughly as "He, the Minister, is pregnant"). All senior jobs were masculine.

In the more male arena, President Chirac recently went on record as saying that he would have liked to have been "goal" - the traditional word for goalkeeper.

Prime Minister Jospin replied by pointing out that he himself actually had been a "gardie" - thus scoring doubly by using what is now the

more accepted, updated French term.

Bernard Cerquiglini is broadly in favour of this "francisation". "I am not xenophobic," he said. "But I am plurilingual. I do not want to take, say, judo, and make all that vocabulary French. Similarly with golf. But when it comes to football, which is the most popular of all games, words should be comprehensible."

The point here is that language should not be like a World Cup competition, but more of a Tower of Babel. We should avoid casualties. Linguistically speaking, we don't want England (or the USA) winning everything; there should be room for everyone to play.

So France is making sure that its own language is not going to be eliminated. But Bernard is more ruthless when it comes to football: "France will lose to Italy. Maybe 2-1."

Cape Town Test: Freshly unearthed from Springboks' treasure house is a white-hot wing primed to torment England

## Terblanche set to establish reign of terror

TAKEN AT face value, Stefan Terblanche appears to hold British rugby in unusually high regard; not only does South Africa's white-hot wing discovery expect an intense examination from England in Cape Town tomorrow afternoon, but he openly identifies John Jeffrey, the long-retired Scottish flanker, as his sporting hero. There is, however, a sting in this unlikely tale. Jeffrey was known as the "Great White Shark", a fact that sits rather disconcertingly alongside Terblanche's other passion. Spear fishing.

Spear or no spear, Terblanche oozes danger; four tries on his Test debut against Ireland in Bloemfontein a little over three weeks ago amounted to a fairly decisive statement of intent and there were two more against the hapless Welsh a few hundred miles across the high veld in Pretoria last Saturday. "Only two against the Welsh?" asked one English back yesterday. "He's obviously peaked too soon," Mmmm.

When Terblanche turned 23 yesterday, he completed 12 months of the most spectacular rugby progress. He rattled up 13 tries for his province, Boland, in last season's Currie Cup, a performance sufficiently vibrant to earn him a run in this year's Super 12 tournament with the Natal-dominated Coastal Sharks. There was no holding him there either, as 10 tries in 11 matches testified. In short, no defence, neither provincial nor international, has yet worked out a method of keeping him under lock and key.

"It's possible to play well and not score at all, but I prefer it this way," he smiles, serene in the warm glow of green-jerseyed recognition. "I cannot begin to explain why things have happened this way. I work hard, very hard, on my speed and fitness but then, so does everyone else. Perhaps it's because I'm a newcomer. Against the Irish, I felt they were so concerned with marking the guys with all the caps that they forgot about the new boy out there on the right wing."

Terblanche did not always take

BY CHRIS HEWETT

his rugby as seriously as his mentors might have liked, to the extent that Nick Mallett, the current Springbok coach who oversaw his early days at Boland, felt obliged to wield the big stick. "Nick likes to tell it how it is and he certainly left me in no doubt as to what he expected in terms of self-discipline. Some people might struggle to accept Nick's approach, even at Springbok level, because he can be very firm, very up front, and I must admit that I went through a stage of taking things very personally."

"But it's done the trick for me. I took Nick's message on board - be

*'I haven't faced a really good Test side as yet. England will ask more of me and more of my team this weekend'*

said I needed a more aggressive approach, more physical power and a much stronger attitude towards defence - and as a result, I can now call myself a Springbok. Mind you, I don't think I've faced a really good Test side as yet. England will ask more of me and more of my team this weekend. I'm looking forward to being pushed."

It is no great coincidence that the three members of the Tri-Nations elite are mind-bogglingly strong in the back-three department. New Zealand habitually unleashes Cullen, Wilson and either Lomu or Vidiri while Australia can boast Burke, Tane and Roff. When the Bokke's World Cup-winning threesome of Andre Joubert, James Small and Chester Williams began to disintegrate three years ago, few antici-

pated an early succession. Yet Percy Montgomery, Pieter Rossouw and Terblanche have suddenly emerged from the ashes of last summer's trauma at the hands of the Lions.

To Clive Woodward, the England coach, such players are the very essence of the modern game: the gold, frankincense and myrrh of rugby's treasure house. He cannot hope to manufacture genius on the scale of a Cullen or a Wilson, for both are once in a lifetime talents. But Mallett's piecing together of this new Springbok trio is highly instructive. Crucially, all three possess wide experience of the full-back's role and are therefore equipped with sound defensive, positional and kicking skills as well as raw pace.

Not that Terblanche now regards himself as anything other than a wing - a wing for whom Natal, one of the South Africa's glory provinces, are willing to pay very big bucks indeed. "It looks like I'll be moving to Durban, although I've left the negotiations to others. Having decided to give rugby everything I've got, I don't want to be distracted. The Springbok jersey means so much and if you allow yourself to become deflected, you put yourself in danger of letting your performance levels slip."

"For that reason, I don't even read the newspapers; I depend on my friends to keep me in touch with reality, to tell me what I need to know and push everything else to one side. In fact, I didn't even suspect that I was in the running for the Boks until other people told me that the papers were beginning to mention my name."

"These last few months have been fantastic, but the Springbok way means you have to accept the responsibility that comes with success. Yes, there has been a lot of publicity and my phone hasn't stopped ringing since the Ireland game, but the limelight has no importance for me. Nick was right when he told me that discipline was everything. From now on, my focus is on rugby. Nothing else."



Stefan Terblanche, the 23-year-old South Africa wing, scored four tries on his Test debut - "It's possible to play well and not score at all, but I prefer it this way" David Rogers/Allsport

## Evans wins damages claim

THE FORMER Welsh international prop Ricky Evans was celebrating last night after successfully winning his long legal battle for damages against the French lock Olivier Merle.

Evans, 38 last week, will receive an interim payment of more than £5,000 from Merle for injuries which Evans claims ruined his international career.

The former Llanelli loose head will now undergo an examination by a doctor appointed by the French High Court before a further hearing is held to determine the final compensation. Mark Harvey, Evans' solicitor, is confident he will receive the £30,000 damages he had originally claimed after the assault.

"I am absolutely delighted and feel entirely vindicated in bringing this claim against Merle," Evans said. "This man ruined my international career and now I am going to see justice done."

Merle, the former French lock, was seen to head-butt Evans during a Five Nations game in Paris in January 1995 which France won 21-9. The assault sent him crashing to the ground and left him with severe ankle damage that restricted him to just one more Test for Wales while also cutting short his club career.

At a hearing on June 8 at the French High Court in Paris, the presiding judge called Merle's actions an "act of brutality" and found him entirely responsible for Evans' injuries.

He was ordered to pay Evans interim compensation of 50,000 French francs (£5,251), with a further hearing set to follow to determine how much of the £30,000 damages claimed will be awarded.

After the incident in the Parc des Princes in which he also suffered a fractured nose, Evans battled his way back to fitness to regain his place in the Welsh squad for the 1995 World Cup.

But the hard grounds in South Africa aggravated the metalwork left in his ankle and his career nose-dived.

After initially being advised against pursuing legal action by the Welsh Rugby Union, Evans began proceedings against Merle in September 1996, claiming damages for loss of earnings and pain and suffering caused by the injury.

## Venables moves for Argentinians Meeting of McDermotts

FOOTBALL  
BY ALAN NIXON

TERRY VENABLES stepped up his recruitment campaign at Crystal Palace yesterday as the First Division club's new manager moved to sign two Argentina Under-21 internationals, Diego Maric and Pablo Rodriguez, in a £1.5m deal.

The Argentinians Juniors pair were part of the squad who won the recent Toulon tournament and are considered excellent prospects. Maric is a central midfield playmaker while Rodriguez plays down the left. Both have dual nationality and will not need work permits. Palace had an agent in South America last night typing up the details and the players should fly to London this weekend to complete the moves.

The Manchester United centre-half Gary Pallister will have talks with Bryan Robson next week about a £1.8m transfer to Middlesbrough. Pallister's 10-year spell at Old Trafford is about to end and he is expected to take a share of the transfer fee instead of a testimonial if he moves. Pallister can leave once United's £10.5m signing, the Dutch international Jaap Stam, emerges from the World Cup free of injury.

Bolton yesterday signed the Danish midfielder Claus Jensen from Lyngby for £1.6m. Jensen, an Under-21 international, is the manager Colin Todd's second overseas signing in 24 hours, following the £1m acquisition of the Jamaican World Cup player Ricardo Gardner.

Rangers are preparing to take Feyenoord to court to secure the release of the Dutch World Cup play-

er Giovanni van Bronckhorst. The 23-year-old midfielder is keen to come to Ibrox in a reported £5m deal but has seen the move held up by his club's attempts to secure a higher price. The Rangers chairman, David Murray, has already agreed personal terms with the player and will now turn to the special Dutch football court to settle the issue.

Meanwhile, Murray is willing to let Marco Negri move to the Spanish side Real Betis once a suitable replacement is found. A £5m fee has been agreed for the Italian striker but Murray has invited other clubs to enter the bidding.

Steve Bruce, the former Manchester United captain, was yesterday confirmed as Sheffield United's new player-manager. Steve Thompson, who steered the Blades to the FA Cup semi-finals and the

First Division play-offs following Nigel Spackman's departure, will be Bruce's assistant at Bramall Lane.

Steve Staunton has returned for a second spell at Liverpool on a free transfer from Aston Villa. The 29-year-old Republic of Ireland international's contract with Villa has ended, enabling him to rejoin Liverpool under the Bosman ruling.

Mark Pemberton, out of contract at Sheffield Wednesday, flew to Portugal yesterday to discuss a chance of a move to Benfica with the Lisbon club's Scottish coach, Graeme Souness. Benfica are believed to be offering a three-year contract worth around £2.4m.

Bass has stepped up their links with football after agreeing a five-year £23m deal to rename the Coca-Cola Cup the Worthington Cup. Draw: Digest, page 25

RUGBY LEAGUE

BY DAVE HADFIELD

MATCHES BETWEEN Leeds and Bradford traditionally have an edge to them, but tonight's encounter could be one of the more bitter of neighbourly confrontations.

Leeds needs to win to stay stride for stride with Wigan at the top of Super League while defeat for Bradford, coupled with Sheffield beating Castleford in the evening's other game, would narrow the gap that separates the sides placed fifth and sixth to the point where the Bulls' hold on a play-off place would be in peril.

Much could depend on the two unrelated McDermotts. Bradford's Brian returns after keyhole surgery on his knee to give the Bulls' front

row a more authoritative look, while Leeds' Barrie might well start the match after impressing as a substitute in the otherwise lacklustre victory at Warrington last week.

Their personal collision could be a highlight, although the Rugby League insists it is mere coincidence that it comes immediately after all clubs being put on notice that there is to be one of the periodic clamp-downs on high tackling.

Maurice Lindsay, Super League's managing director, confidently expects the crowd at Headingley to top the 19,000 who watched Wigan beaten there earlier in the season, despite the counter attraction of the World Cup.

The London Broncos can forget any hope of having the Australian scrum-half Allan Langer in their side next season. Langer has signed

a new two-year contract with his existing club, the Brisbane Broncos, after he had hinted that he was willing to talk to London.

On a brighter note, London expect to have another international scrum-half, Shaun Edwards, fit to make his second debut for them at home to Hull on Sunday after missing the defeat at Halifax with a chest injury.

The First Division play-off final which, depending on who you speak to, may or may not lead to a Super League place for the winner, is to be at Huddersfield on 26 September.

The League has ordered that all the matches in the final round of the White Rose and Red Rose competitions on Sunday kick off at 3pm following complaints that late starts could give some clubs an unfair advantage.

# Novotna beats demons with steely display

BY GUY HODGSON



JANA NOVOTNA'S reputation as the author of her own downfall might need rewriting. The woman who staged the most spectacular collapse in Centre Court history is through to tomorrow's women's final after defeating the reigning Wimbledon champion, Martina Hingis, and yesterday it was steely determination that caught the eye rather than the flag of surrender.

At the end, as Hingis's return hit the net, the Czech heat to the ground and then looked up to her coach, Hana Mandlikova, raising a hand in triumph. Or maybe she also saw the demons of 1993 leaving with yesterday's 6-4, 6-4 victory and was waving them goodbye. Certainly, if she defeats Nathalie Tauziat in the final tomorrow her stature as the great choker will be banished. Five years ago she was serving at game point for 5-1 against Steffi Graf in the final's deciding set when her game crumbled. Yesterday she was 3-0 and 40-love down against the best women's player in the world and yet she clawed back for what she described as "one of the biggest wins" of her career. The fact it also avenged a defeat in last year's final and it was against her doubles partner made it all the sweeter.

"Maybe there were tears in my eyes," Novotna, who is in her third final, said. "I was really excited. Beating Martina Hingis in a Wimbledon semi-final is very special. We get on very well and we know each other's game well so it was really emotional. I told her 'you beat me last year and I've got my own back now'."

The outcome was extraordinary given Hingis's spectacular start. The first nine points went to the Swiss girl, who 12 months ago became the youngest champion this century, at 16 years nine months and five days. Novotna was not being beaten, she was being thrashed,

pulled from side to side by the precision and power of her opponent.

"She didn't give me a chance in the opening games," Novotna said. "She was serving really well and was very aggressive. She was really pumped up at the beginning."

With three break points against her in the next game you would have had to search hard to find anyone on Centre Court who thought Novotna had the remotest chance of winning, but somehow she clung on to her service. It was a small trophy but it restored hope that was fortified when she broke Hingis immediately.

Suddenly it was Hingis who was doing the chasing, losing seven of the next eight games. She did not like it either, putting on her Little Miss Tantrum act, throwing her racket in the net twice and bashing a ball towards the sidelines in fits of pique. Quite what the umpire was waiting for to issue a racket abuse warning was unclear, but you could think of several instances where others have been punished for less.

While Hingis was losing her cool, Novotna - the woman whose temperament is so brittle she ought to have "fragile" printed on her tennis shirts - was remaining icily composed. She stretched Hingis to four break points and five deuces at 3-3 in the second set and the illusion that her chance had gone was shattered when she broke the champion to 30 in her next service game.

Would Novotna's nerve hold? At 40-love she threw the ball up high into the darkening sky and then stopped just as she was about to serve. You wondered if this was the first stitch coming out of her composure but with one hefty swipe she fired in a serve that Hingis could not get back.

"I learned a lot from my mistakes last year," Novotna said. "I remember talking to Hana Mandlikova after that final and we knew exactly what went wrong. I was well prepared coming into this match and it showed."

Hingis complained of tiredness, although that was due partly to the relentless retrieving of her opponent.

"She puts a lot of pressure on you," she said. "She closes up the net. I hit some great shots that would have beaten a lot of other players but she always got it back. You have to win the point again and again and I wasn't patient enough."

"I think she deserves the Wimbledon title. She's a great grass court player and she's more experienced. She been in the final twice and she's lost but I think she's got a great chance this time."

While Novotna's win was a surprise, the score of 1-6, 7-6, 6-3 in Tauziat's favour in the other semi-final would have been incomprehensible for anyone who watched the first set. Tauziat did not start cold against Natasha Zvereva, she was frozen solid. Her opening shot was a double fault which just about summed up the first set, 21 minutes of incompetence from the French No.16 seed.

She could barely get a first serve in. Zvereva could barely believe her luck, but the Belarusian has previous form when it comes to the disappointment department and she lived down to expectation. On the one occasion she made it to a Grand Slam final before she lost 6-0, 6-0 to Graf in the final of the French Open and although she did not fall with the same violence yesterday, she fell nonetheless.

The turning point was the second set tie-break in which Zvereva's self-belief dissolved before our eyes. That was lost 7-1 and, gaining impetus from that, Tauziat made the decisive break in the deciding set, going 3-0 up. From there the end was swift.

"She was slowly lurking in the match," Zvereva, who defeated Graf and Monica Seles to reach the semi-finals said. "And by the end I she was beating me at the baseline and the net." She went on to blame her forehead and her backhand approach, which left very little which was going right. "I feel so tired," she added. "I need a break in a mental institution." Novotna would understand the feeling.



Jana Novotna celebrates yesterday, after beating the reigning champion, Martina Hingis, in the semi-final

Robert Hallam

## British hero's days of glory

Roger Taylor recalls his big Centre Court moments.

By Richard Eaton

WHEN ROGER Taylor reached the Wimbledon semi-final 25 years ago the route was easier, though the achievement was arguably greater than Henman's in that it was the third time Taylor had done it.

But the toughest obstacles the British No.1 faced in the boycott-blighted year of 1973 were less formidable than those Henman this week confronted in the persons of two recent winners of Grand Slam titles, Pat Rafter and Petr Korda.

However, the road to the '70 semi was much more rocky. Indeed the success Taylor achieved on the middle Saturday in the last 16 of that year against the defending champion Rod Laver was the best by a British man since the war.

The Australian was a legend and still regarded by some as the all-time greatest. He had gone 31 matches at Wimbledon unbeaten, and yet after Taylor had lost the first set he grew in stature as the match went on, outplaying his opponent.

"Looking back it was incredible because Laver was thought to be invincible. It would have been easy to roll over," said Taylor, who that year also beat two of the game's biggest servers, Clark Gribner and Charlie Pasarell, before falling to another great Australian, Ken Rosewall.

The Yorkshireman was notoriously impet-like the longer matches lasted, making it all the more galling that rain interrupted his '73 semi-final against Jan Kodes at 5-5 in the



Taylor coped well with Wimbledon pressure

PA

final set. That possibly cost him his chance of victory against the Czech and possibly the Wimbledon title Kodes went on to win.

When they were recalled to finish the match it was 8-10 in the evening, they were already changing into everyday clothes, the crowd had mostly gone home, and the rhythm and mood of the contest was radically different.

Taylor usually handled pressure well, and he believes that Henman's chances of success against Pete Sampras today depend on whether he can do the same to become the first British man since the war to reach the final.

"Tim just has to play the match of his life," said Taylor, who thinks the coolest is comparable to his famous meeting with Laver. "He was number one in the world and Wimbledon champion and Sampras is exactly that."

"So Tim has to play his own game as well as he can and sustain it for as long as it takes. But Tim is more experienced, better and stronger player than two years ago."

Taylor often used to approach big matches with a first

serve, first volley focus which was simple, but helpful both tactically and psychologically.

"They take more risks these days and I can't say exactly what Tim will want to do because he has a big first serve, though as a serve-volleyer you can take control of the rally," Taylor said.

There are hidden pressures on Sampras which Henman doesn't have. Grand Slam records are looming closer for the American - he can equal Bjorn Borg's Open era record of five Wimbledon titles this time and move to within one of Roy Emerson's all-time record of 12 Grand Slam titles.

"I think Sampras is feeling it because he is trying to write his name in the history books," said Taylor. "It means so much to him. It is his whole being at the moment."

If the champion finds himself overloaded with the pressure then it might offer Henman a better chance than many will expect. Taylor himself believes that the coolest is somewhere near cut and dried. "Absolutely he has a chance," Taylor said. "But it couldn't be a tougher match. I will be there to watch. I hope he does well."

## Henman needs right tactics to exploit national fervour

BUOYED, we trust, by the national fervour transferred from central France to the Centre Court, Tim Henman will endeavour this afternoon to join an exclusive club of five players who have defeated Pete Sampras at Wimbledon.

Victory would make Henman Britain's first men's singles finalist for 60 years and create a panic to quadruple the size of tennis's most famous arena in time for Sunday's showdown against Goran Ivanisevic or Richard Krajicek.

Krajicek is the only player to have denied Sampras the title since the stylish American's grass-court game matured into one of the finest ever to grace the All England Club. After defeating Sampras in the quarter-finals in 1996, Krajicek went on to become the first Dutch champion.

The 26-year-old from Rotterdam may have made an unforced error with his tongue the other day by rating Sampras only No.10 in the world on his form so far this year. Sampras will probably hear that in mind should they meet in the final.

It has been said that Sampras has lacked motivation of late. Your correspondent is reminded of Danoo Runyon's response to a boxing reporter who told him that Joe Louis slapped: "I hope he never slaps me."

Ivanisevic, twice a bridesmaid with a rolling pin, was the runner-up to Andre Agassi after overcoming Sampras in the 1992 semi-finals. Sampras atoned by defeating the Croat left-hander in the 1994 final and the 1995 semi-finals.

Although tipped as a future Wimbledon champion by Fred Perry after winning his first tour title on a carpet court in Philadelphia in 1990, Sampras took time to build confidence in his return of serve on grass, even after his success on the surface in the Manchester tournament that same year.

It is fair to say that Sampras was vulnerable at Wimbledon when defeated by the Aus-

tralian Todd Woodbridge in 1990, by the South African Christo Van Rensburg in 1990, and by Derrick Rostagno, an American compatriot, in 1991.

Today's Sampras, however, has four Wimbledon titles among a total of 10 Grand Slams, only two short of the record held by the Australian Roy Emerson, and has finished No.1 in the world rankings for the past five years. Henman, a student of the sport as well as a splendid practitioner, needs no reminding of Sampras's career record. Moreover, the 23-year-old from Oxford has personal experience of his opponent's expertise at Wimbledon, having lost to him, 6-2, 6-3, 7-6, in the second round in 1995, ending the day ignominiously by becoming the first player ever to be disqualified at the All England Club after accidentally striking a ball-girl with a ball hit in frustration during a doubles match.

Often described as the British Sampras in terms of

style and temperament, Henman not only admires the 26-year-old American but counts him among his many friends in the locker room. They frequently practice together and have partnered each other in doubles at several tournaments. The pair practised side by side at the All England Club yesterday. Henman with Matthew Trudgeon, a 17-year-old junior from Cornwall, Sampras with Mark Petchey, the Essex player.

Whatever the outcome today, Henman's feat in advancing to the semi-finals, eliminating two current Grand Slam champions, Pat Rafter, the No.6 seed, and Petr Korda, seeded No.3, needs to be placed in perspective. No one who has followed the sport over the past 30 years would dispute that the depth of talent in the men's game has increased year by year since tennis went open in 1968.

When Britain last boasted a man in the last four, the gifted

and gutsy Yorkshireman Roger Taylor in 1973, nearly 80 players boycotted the championships in support of the Association of Tennis Professionals' dispute with the International Tennis Federation.

The controversy concerned the ITF's rejection of Niki Pilic's appeal against a nine-month suspension imposed on him by Yugoslavia for failing to play in their Davis Cup match against New Zealand in Zagreb. Even though an emergency committee reduced Pilic's suspension to one month, the ATP carried out its threat of a boycott when Wimbledon refused to allow Pilic to compete.

Taylor and the Romanian Ilie Nastase were later fined £2,000 by the ATP for participating, which was double Taylor's prize for defeating a newcomer, Bjorn Borg, in the quarter-finals. Taylor lost in the semi-finals to the Czech Jan Kodes, who in the final beat Alex Metreveli of the Soviet Union. In

the quarter-finals, Metreveli eliminated a young whipper-snapper by the name of Jimmy Connors.

Henman, having learned from the experience of losing in two consecutive quarter-finals, against Todd Martin in 1996 and Michael Stich a year ago, approached the tournament with an impressive blend of confidence and realism. His Davis Cup team-mate, Greg Rusedski, seeded No.4, was the British player fancied to improve upon a quarter-final appearance last year, at least until he elected to play while carrying an ankle injury. Henman had faith in his ability to advance beyond the last eight, saying: "I feel that I've got a pretty good chance, perhaps as good a chance as most. I definitely believe that one day I could win Wimbledon. But, having said that, when I look at my game and the way I'm developing, I'd still say its another two or three years before I'll be playing my best tennis, where I've reached my peak."

There may have been a touch of precocence in another of his observations. "You'd have to ask Pete, but to win a Slam - and he's done it 10 times - I think it's fair to say you need an element of luck, you need a few things to go your way. So if it doesn't happen this year, then I've still got plenty more opportunities."

If he is to win today, Henman will have to be more like Sampras than Sampras, serving and returning with consistency, punching away the volleys and overhands, playing deep, accurate groundstrokes, and not allowing his concentration to waver for a second. The champion, remember, has not lost a set at Wimbledon since last year's quarter-finals, when Korda snatched one away from him.

All things are possible. When Henman last played Sampras, the match ended with a tie-break in the third set. If it comes down to another shoot-out, the last thing Henman must do is put the ball in the net.

### THE SAMPRAS DEFEATS AT WIMBLEDON



Pete Sampras is in disarray as he goes out in the 1996 Wimbledon quarter-finals to the eventual champion Richard Krajicek

1989 1st rd lost to Todd Woodbridge (Aus) 7-5, 7-6, 5-7, 6-3.  
1990 1st rd lost to Christo Van Rensburg (SA) 7-6, 7-5, 7-6.  
1991 2nd rd lost to Derrick Rostagno (US). 6-4, 3-6, 7-6, 6-4.  
1992 SF (seeded No.5) lost to Goran Ivanisevic (Croat) 6-7, 7-6, 6-4, 6-2.  
1996 QF (seeded No.1) lost to Richard Krajicek (Neth) 7-5, 7-6, 6-4.

## Court circular

EDITED BY IAN TASKER

### Going up in the world

FORGET PAYING through the nose for tickets for the championships – become a BBC cameraperson and you'll be guaranteed the best seat. For the past 10 years Colin Hazelwood has been one of the teams who mans the hoist, the large crane like contraption with a camera mounted on top that brings BBC viewers the panoramic shots of the whole ground.

From his perch around 300 feet above the complex, Hazelwood describes the view as spectacular. "Even though I'm quite experienced in going up, there are still moments of trepidation when the wind blows and particularly when there's lightning in the area because you act like a conductor," he says.

"I wear a safety harness when I'm in the cage, but it doesn't prevent me from falling over the side. If I was to fall out [it] would mean me dangling until they lower it down." Even for a private pilot with an obvious head for heights, the seven minutes it takes to lower the cage would still be petrifying.

All of a sudden, those tickets the tout was offering for the women's final at £1,000 apiece looked like a bit of a bargain.

### Victory written in stars for Tiger Tim

WHAT WITH all the furore over Beckham's blunder, Owen's talent and Rusedski's condescending dilemma, it's hard to tell one end of your newspaper from the other. Now it's Henman's achievements that are continuing this topsy-turvy precedent. Henman is clearly visible wherever the Boy Wonder plays at Wimbledon and naturally a lot of speculation goes on between members of the silly hat brigade.

As founder of the Henmagic fan club, Sarah Vickary is certainly one of Henman's biggest fans. "I think what Tim has done is absolutely tremendous," says the woman who has seen all of his matches during the Championships. "I've been saying for the last 18 months that he could win it this year."

"I'm not superstitious, but I read a book about Chinese horoscopes recently. Tim was born in the Year of the Tiger and it's the Year of the Tiger this year. His horoscope says he's dedicated, focused, that he loves situations where he's staring down the barrel of a gun and that he will make it big this year."

Sarah said she would do anything to get a ticket if Henman makes it to the final. In the meantime, however, her message to her hero is simply "Go do it".

Jane Marlton



Tim Henman fans are hoping Pete Sampras finds the net an insurmountable obstacle in today's semi-final with the British No 2

Robert Hallam

## Tauziat lacking a secret weapon

BY RICHARD EDMONDSON

SUZANNE LENGLEN, the last Frenchwoman to win Wimbledon, was occasionally fortified during matches by sugar lumps soaked in brandy thrown to her by Papa, Charles.

If France is to reclaim the title last won in 1925 then it seems Nathalie Tauziat too will need to use cognac tomorrow. About half a bottle poured down the neck of Jana Novotna should do the trick.

Before the Czech produced some of the best tennis of her career yesterday to defeat Martina Hingis, the Centre Court crowd had to endure Tauziat's less aesthetic 1-6, 7-6, 6-3 victory over Natasha Zvereva. Perhaps that was all that was deserved.

The Centre Court has been a bear pit in the past, but yesterday the audience was small and subdued. The arena had more of the genteel atmosphere of Winnie the Pooh butting picnic scones for Tiger and Piglet.

It was never like this in Lenglen's day. She won 91 of her 94 championship matches here, in an attractive, balletic style which prompted the All-England Club to move in 1922 from Worple Road to its present Church Road site. They needed extra space to accommodate spectators drawn by this great athletic flapper.

The crowds loved Lenglen's style, both competitive and sartorial. She practised by aiming at pocket handkerchiefs spread on the court by Papa. Her outfits were composed of daringly short translucent skirts and colourful bandeaux. She refused to wear the stiffs, the thin, corset-stiffening strips worn by other players.

Lenglen, however, was gone from SW19 by the time she

was 27, an age at which Tauziat was just warming up. She entered the world's Top 10 in January, to become only the second player past their 30th birthday to make that breakthrough since 1976.

Nathalie Tauziat lives in Bayonne, the commercial centre for the Basque region in south-west France. This is the place which became famous in the 17th century for its metalwork and subsequent development of a weapon named after the port. Tauziat may need to attach one to her racket tomorrow if she is to repel Novotna's net rushes.

The Frenchwoman was actually born in Bangui, the capital of the Central African Republic, a landlocked chunk in the middle of the dark continent. This was formerly the land of the disgraced Emperor Bokassa, who spent millions on his coronation and was considerably more ruthless with his opponents than Tauziat was with hers yesterday.

Tauziat lost the first game of the match to love, walked to the chair and proceeded to spill her drink down her front. This was not auspicious. After 21 minutes of largely sympathetic silence following Tauziat's medley of errors, the set had gone, 6-1. Zvereva looked on her way.

"I didn't move well and she played unbelievably," Tauziat said. "I was embarrassed. The thing I was most embarrassed about was not playing [well]. You are in the semi-final of Wimbledon and you have to give your best and I don't think at the beginning of the match I gave my best."

"But suddenly I started to think 'I'm going to miss this chance', and I say, 'Nathalie, you have to fight'."

When Zvereva joined the



Nathalie Tauziat stretches for a forehand on her way to victory over Natasha Zvereva yesterday

Allsport

tour she was referred to by the Christian name of Natalia, which was soon changed to the more informal Nathalie. There was another transformation in the artist formerly known as Natalia at the end of the first set yesterday.

Tauziat had needed help to get back in the game and someone on Centre Court obliged – her opponent, Zvereva, who is not used to playing this many

singles games at a tournament, started moving as nippily as a trawler she became more tentative. Tauziat became encouraged.

"I started to move better and I played more aggressive, my ball was longer," she said. "My level went higher and higher during the match."

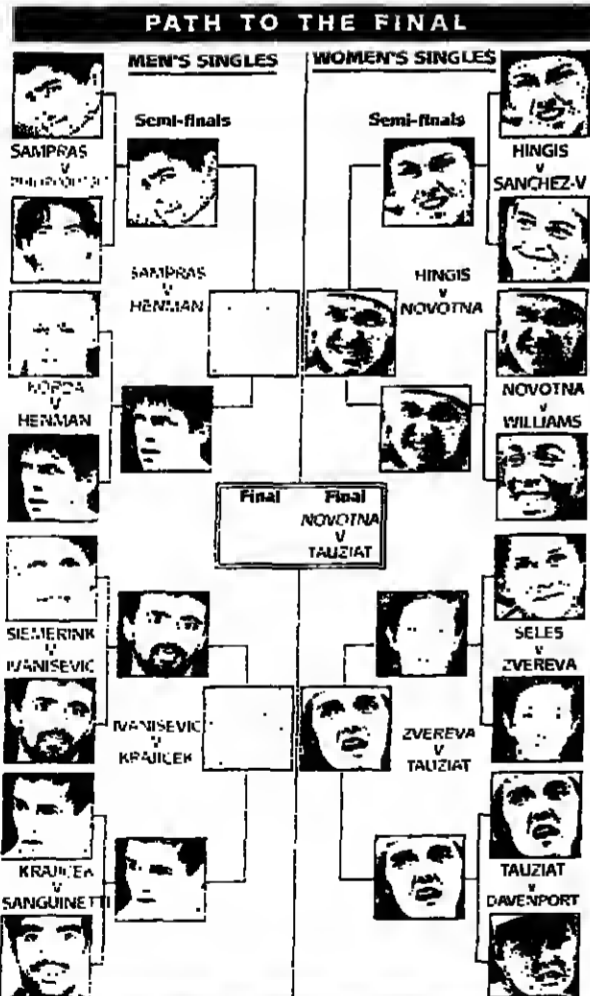
Tauziat, the No 16 seed, may be an accidental finalist, but she has not surprised herself. "I re-

ally believe I can play well at Wimbledon," she said. "I said, 'OK, so this year you're not injured, you're not tired, so you can go all the way at Wimbledon.' I take the thing very positively. I'm not on the moon already, but almost."

Just the one mission remains. "The first thing is that I have nothing to lose," Tauziat said. "It's going to be a nice present to be there, to be on this

Centre Court. I play Novotna many times. I beat her. She beat me. If I play my best tennis, I think I can win."

At yesterday's climax, Tauziat rolled around theatrically on the turf, a fit of celebration that will be difficult to suppress. "I don't know what I'm going to do if I win the final," she said. Nathalie Tauziat shouldn't waste too much time worrying about that.



CHAMPIONSHIP STATS	
B The number of consecutive Grand Slam semi-finals Martina Hingis has reached	256 minutes The longest men's final at Wimbledon
43 The number of times it has taken France's Nathalie Tauziat to get to a Grand Slam semi-final	21,000 Petunias in the garden at Wimbledon
	520 The number of players eligible for Wimbledon's Last Eight Club

LATEST ODDS	
Men's singles, to win: 8/1 Sampras, 6/1 Ivanisevic, Krajcek: 8 Hennman Semi-finals (today): 9 Sampras v Hennman 3:1, 5:6 Ivanisevic v Krajcek 5:6.	Women's singles, to win (tomorrow): 2/7 Novotna; 5/2 Lajozlat.



Kelleway moves to Lingfield

Colin Kelleway, 34, has moved to Lingfield, Surrey, to join the staff of the new 18-hole golf course, the Lingfield Golf Club, which is being built on the site of the old Lingfield Golf Club. Kelleway, who has been a professional golfer for 10 years, will be in charge of the course's maintenance and will also be in charge of the club's operations. The new course is expected to be completed by the end of the year.

# Montgomerie's jolly after perfect start

BY ANDY FARRELL  
in Newtown Mount Kennedy

AS SOMEONE who is keen on his tennis, Colin Montgomerie has a court at home but does not use it much during the golfing season, which means he uses it hardly at all. "It is quite dangerous using different muscles," Monty said. "So it is detrimental to my game. But my wife uses the court."

Montgomerie sent a message of good luck to Tim Henman, who shares the same management company, for his battle at Wimbledon today with Pete Sampras. Henman's chances against a man who considers the All England's lawn his own amount to much the same as those of all 155 of Montgomerie's opponents in the Murphy's Irish Open.

Montgomerie Mansions

does not quite include room in the back yard for a golf course, but if there were it would likely be a replica of Druids Glen. Whether it is the Irish air or the setting by the Wicklow mountains, Monty is a man at peace with himself and the world whenever he tees up here - and it shows.

An opening 65, six under par, yesterday left him 26-under-par for his nine rounds on the course where he has won the title for the last two years. "Even when I bogeyed the first hole I was still in a very relaxed mood," Monty said. "Sometimes you just really like a course. Coming back here after two wins in a row I've nothing to lose."

But that is not the whole story. "I feel very happy right now as things are going well off the course as well as on it," he added. "There's a lot happened at home. The house is nearly

finished. I have three lovely, healthy children, the MBE, and winning the Volvo PGA. If I can't be happy there's a problem."

Since he set a new course record of 62 in the final round last year, the Druids Glen course has been toughened up and, Montgomerie apart, there was plenty of evidence to show for it. The Scot's closest challengers could do no better than 68s, three behind, while the half-way cut will be in the plus-figure when it falls today.

Among those who may be embarrassed by it are Nick Faldo at four over par, while Seve Ballesteros had a 78. Of the younger generation, Darren Clarke was three over, Jose Maria Olazabal two over, Ernie Els level par and Lee Westwood one under.

Montgomerie, trying to keep his hands lighter on his putter than usual, suddenly found the putts disappearing and he

played the front nine in 30. Unlike at Olympic in the US Open, he was able to unleash his three-wood to maximum effect and at the 18th hit his tee-shot almost 300 yards.

The hole is uphill and measures 465 yards. Monty set up a birdie with a seven-iron approach shot but Sergio Garcia needed only a wedge after hitting his driver 340 yards.

The 18-year-old Spaniard, who is the current British Amateur champion, stood out from the others at three under because he is yet to turn professional and will not do so before playing in the US Masters next April.

A week after finishing third in a Nike Tour event in America, where he shot a 65 in the third round, Garcia responded to dropping three strokes in successive holes after briefly sharing the lead with Montgomerie by birdieing the ninth.



Montgomerie blasts away another tee shot

"Obviously he has emulated Olazabal's feat and I know better than anyone how good Ollie was at that age," said Montgomerie, who lost the 1984 Amateur final to Olazabal. "Sergio seems to be a semi-pro, but he is a very talented one. We will see a lot of him on the leaderboard."

Scores, David, page 25

# New look bodes well for future

BY MIKE ROWBOTTOM

BRITAIN'S SPORTING future brightened yesterday with the announcement of a radical new administrative structure. The body that has dealt with elite National Lottery applications for the last two years, the UK Sports Council, is to gain direct access to funding for the first time, working under a Sports Cabinet to be chaired by the Secretary of State for Culture, Chris Smith. The Cabinet, which will include Sports Ministers from the four parts of the UK, including the Minister for Sport, Tony Banks, plans to meet several times a year to identify strategic priorities. In Smith's words, it will "give the joint political direction which was lacking."

A NEW LOOK FOR SPORT

With major initiatives such as the creation of a national stadium and a UK Sports Institute under way, and pressure already building to succeed at the 2000 Olympics, the Government's intention is to simplify and unify an area of administration which has been beset by political infighting.

The recasting of the UKSC, set up two years ago as the body which would consider Lottery applications from Britain's leading sportsmen and women, is a logical move. Until now, competitors seeking grants have had to wait for the English Sports Council to process their claims at the UKSC's request, an anomaly which has caused many frustrating delays.

The new UKSC will be chaired by Sir Rodney Walker, who will be leaving his post as chairman of the English Sports Council. Walker's deputy will be Craig Reade, chairman of the British Olympic Association and a member of the International Olympic Committee.

## MARKET RASEN

**2.10** Scarrons 2.45 Change The Reign 3.20 Tey Jay 1.50 Don't Forget Curle 4.20 Chernwood Jack 4.50 Non Vintage 5.20 Sparky

GOING: Good to Firm (Good in places)

Right-hand, fair, undulating course. Run-in of one furlong. Course is E of town on A63. Market Rasen station (Lincoln - Grantham line) is 1.5 miles from the course. 150 members of the Jubilee Club (half price); Silver Ring 25 (Jubilee Club half price). CAR PARK: picnic area 22, 23, 24, 25, 26, 27, 28, 29, 30, 31, 32, 33, 34, 35, 36, 37, 38, 39, 40, 41, 42, 43, 44, 45, 46, 47, 48, 49, 50, 51, 52, 53, 54, 55, 56, 57, 58, 59, 60, 61, 62, 63, 64, 65, 66, 67, 68, 69, 70, 71, 72, 73, 74, 75, 76, 77, 78, 79, 80, 81, 82, 83, 84, 85, 86, 87, 88, 89, 90, 91, 92, 93, 94, 95, 96, 97, 98, 99, 100.

**2.10** HOLIDAY TIME MAIDEN HURDLE (CLASS F) (Div 1) £2,400 added 2m 11 110yds

1. 2ND. AMES BAN (10) M. Jones 5.10. 2. 3RD. GRIFFIN PRICE (10) M. Jones 5.10. 3. 4TH. GRIFFIN PRICE (10) M. Jones 5.10. 4. 5TH. GRIFFIN PRICE (10) M. Jones 5.10. 6. 6TH. GRIFFIN PRICE (10) M. Jones 5.10. 7. 7TH. GRIFFIN PRICE (10) M. Jones 5.10. 8. 8TH. GRIFFIN PRICE (10) M. Jones 5.10. 9. 9TH. GRIFFIN PRICE (10) M. Jones 5.10. 10. 10TH. GRIFFIN PRICE (10) M. Jones 5.10. 11. 11TH. GRIFFIN PRICE (10) M. Jones 5.10. 12. 12TH. GRIFFIN PRICE (10) M. Jones 5.10. 13. 13TH. GRIFFIN PRICE (10) M. Jones 5.10. 14. 14TH. GRIFFIN PRICE (10) M. Jones 5.10. 15. 15TH. GRIFFIN PRICE (10) M. Jones 5.10. 16. 16TH. GRIFFIN PRICE (10) M. Jones 5.10. 17. 17TH. GRIFFIN PRICE (10) M. Jones 5.10. 18. 18TH. GRIFFIN PRICE (10) M. Jones 5.10. 19. 19TH. GRIFFIN PRICE (10) M. Jones 5.10. 20. 20TH. GRIFFIN PRICE (10) M. Jones 5.10. 21. 21TH. GRIFFIN PRICE (10) M. Jones 5.10. 22. 22TH. GRIFFIN PRICE (10) M. Jones 5.10. 23. 23TH. GRIFFIN PRICE (10) M. Jones 5.10. 24. 24TH. GRIFFIN PRICE (10) M. Jones 5.10. 25. 25TH. GRIFFIN PRICE (10) M. Jones 5.10. 26. 26TH. GRIFFIN PRICE (10) M. Jones 5.10. 27. 27TH. GRIFFIN PRICE (10) M. Jones 5.10. 28. 28TH. GRIFFIN PRICE (10) M. Jones 5.10. 29. 29TH. GRIFFIN PRICE (10) M. Jones 5.10. 30. 30TH. GRIFFIN PRICE (10) M. Jones 5.10. 31. 31TH. GRIFFIN PRICE (10) M. Jones 5.10. 32. 32TH. GRIFFIN PRICE (10) M. Jones 5.10. 33. 33TH. GRIFFIN PRICE (10) M. Jones 5.10. 34. 34TH. GRIFFIN PRICE (10) M. Jones 5.10. 35. 35TH. GRIFFIN PRICE (10) M. Jones 5.10. 36. 36TH. GRIFFIN PRICE (10) M. Jones 5.10. 37. 37TH. GRIFFIN PRICE (10) M. Jones 5.10. 38. 38TH. GRIFFIN PRICE (10) M. Jones 5.10. 39. 39TH. GRIFFIN PRICE (10) M. Jones 5.10. 40. 40TH. GRIFFIN PRICE (10) M. Jones 5.10. 41. 41TH. GRIFFIN PRICE (10) M. Jones 5.10. 42. 42TH. GRIFFIN PRICE (10) M. Jones 5.10. 43. 43TH. GRIFFIN PRICE (10) M. Jones 5.10. 44. 44TH. GRIFFIN PRICE (10) M. Jones 5.10. 45. 45TH. GRIFFIN PRICE (10) M. Jones 5.10. 46. 46TH. GRIFFIN PRICE (10) M. Jones 5.10. 47. 47TH. GRIFFIN PRICE (10) M. Jones 5.10. 48. 48TH. GRIFFIN PRICE (10) M. Jones 5.10. 49. 49TH. GRIFFIN PRICE (10) M. Jones 5.10. 50. 50TH. GRIFFIN PRICE (10) M. Jones 5.10. 51. 51TH. GRIFFIN PRICE (10) M. Jones 5.10. 52. 52TH. GRIFFIN PRICE (10) M. Jones 5.10. 53. 53TH. GRIFFIN PRICE (10) M. Jones 5.10. 54. 54TH. GRIFFIN PRICE (10) M. Jones 5.10. 55. 55TH. GRIFFIN PRICE (10) M. Jones 5.10. 56. 56TH. GRIFFIN PRICE (10) M. Jones 5.10. 57. 57TH. GRIFFIN PRICE (10) M. Jones 5.10. 58. 58TH. GRIFFIN PRICE (10) M. Jones 5.10. 59. 59TH. GRIFFIN PRICE (10) M. Jones 5.10. 60. 60TH. GRIFFIN PRICE (10) M. Jones 5.10. 61. 61TH. GRIFFIN PRICE (10) M. Jones 5.10. 62. 62TH. GRIFFIN PRICE (10) M. Jones 5.10. 63. 63TH. GRIFFIN PRICE (10) M. Jones 5.10. 64. 64TH. GRIFFIN PRICE (10) M. Jones 5.10. 65. 65TH. GRIFFIN PRICE (10) M. Jones 5.10. 66. 66TH. GRIFFIN PRICE (10) M. Jones 5.10. 67. 67TH. GRIFFIN PRICE (10) M. Jones 5.10. 68. 68TH. GRIFFIN PRICE (10) M. Jones 5.10. 69. 69TH. GRIFFIN PRICE (10) M. Jones 5.10. 70. 70TH. GRIFFIN PRICE (10) M. Jones 5.10. 71. 71TH. GRIFFIN PRICE (10) M. Jones 5.10. 72. 72TH. GRIFFIN PRICE (10) M. Jones 5.10. 73. 73TH. GRIFFIN PRICE (10) M. Jones 5.10. 74. 74TH. GRIFFIN PRICE (10) M. Jones 5.10. 75. 75TH. GRIFFIN PRICE (10) M. Jones 5.10. 76. 76TH. GRIFFIN PRICE (10) M. Jones 5.10. 77. 77TH. GRIFFIN PRICE (10) M. Jones 5.10. 78. 78TH. GRIFFIN PRICE (10) M. Jones 5.10. 79. 79TH. GRIFFIN PRICE (10) M. Jones 5.10. 80. 80TH. GRIFFIN PRICE (10) M. Jones 5.10. 81. 81TH. GRIFFIN PRICE (10) M. Jones 5.10. 82. 82TH. GRIFFIN PRICE (10) M. Jones 5.10. 83. 83TH. GRIFFIN PRICE (10) M. Jones 5.10. 84. 84TH. GRIFFIN PRICE (10) M. Jones 5.10. 85. 85TH. GRIFFIN PRICE (10) M. Jones 5.10. 86. 86TH. GRIFFIN PRICE (10) M. Jones 5.10. 87. 87TH. GRIFFIN PRICE (10) M. Jones 5.10. 88. 88TH. GRIFFIN PRICE (10) M. Jones 5.10. 89. 89TH. GRIFFIN PRICE (10) M. Jones 5.10. 90. 90TH. GRIFFIN PRICE (10) M. Jones 5.10. 91. 91TH. GRIFFIN PRICE (10) M. Jones 5.10. 92. 92TH. GRIFFIN PRICE (10) M. Jones 5.10. 93. 93TH. GRIFFIN PRICE (10) M. Jones 5.10. 94. 94TH. GRIFFIN PRICE (10) M. Jones 5.10. 95. 95TH. GRIFFIN PRICE (10) M. Jones 5.10. 96. 96TH. GRIFFIN PRICE (10) M. Jones 5.10. 97. 97TH. GRIFFIN PRICE (10) M. Jones 5.10. 98. 98TH. GRIFFIN PRICE (10) M. Jones 5.10. 99. 99TH. GRIFFIN PRICE (10) M. Jones 5.10. 100. 100TH. GRIFFIN PRICE (10) M. Jones 5.10.

**2.45** DEREK CHARLES AUDI HANDICAP CHASE (CLASS E) £4,500 added 3m 11

1. 2ND. SASKIA HERO (10) M. Jones 5.10. 2. 3RD. SASKIA HERO (10) M. Jones 5.10. 3. 4TH. SASKIA HERO (10) M. Jones 5.10. 4. 5TH. SASKIA HERO (10) M. Jones 5.10. 6. 6TH. SASKIA HERO (10) M. Jones 5.10. 7. 7TH. SASKIA HERO (10) M. Jones 5.10. 8. 8TH. SASKIA HERO (10) M. Jones 5.10. 9. 9TH. SASKIA HERO (10) M. Jones 5.10. 10. 10TH. SASKIA HERO (10) M. Jones 5.10. 11. 11TH. SASKIA HERO (10) M. Jones 5.10. 12. 12TH. SASKIA HERO (10) M. Jones 5.10. 13. 13TH. SASKIA HERO (10) M. Jones 5.10. 14. 14TH. SASKIA HERO (10) M. Jones 5.10. 15. 15TH. SASKIA HERO (10) M. Jones 5.10. 16. 16TH. SASKIA HERO (10) M. Jones 5.10. 17. 17TH. SASKIA HERO (10) M. Jones 5.10. 18. 18TH. SASKIA HERO (10) M. Jones 5.10. 19. 19TH. SASKIA HERO (10) M. Jones 5.10. 20. 20TH. SASKIA HERO (10) M. Jones 5.10. 21. 21TH. SASKIA HERO (10) M. Jones 5.10. 22. 22TH. SASKIA HERO (10) M. Jones 5.10. 23. 23TH. SASKIA HERO (10) M. Jones 5.10. 24. 24TH. SASKIA HERO (10) M. Jones 5.10. 25. 25TH. SASKIA HERO (10) M. Jones 5.10. 26. 26TH. SASKIA HERO (10) M. Jones 5.10. 27. 27TH. SASKIA HERO (10) M. Jones 5.10. 28. 28TH. SASKIA HERO (10) M. Jones 5.10. 29. 29TH. SASKIA HERO (10) M. Jones 5.10. 30. 30TH. SASKIA HERO (10) M. Jones 5.10. 31. 31TH. SASKIA HERO (10) M. Jones 5.10. 32. 32TH. SASKIA HERO (10) M. Jones 5.10. 33. 33TH. SASKIA HERO (10) M. Jones 5.10. 34. 34TH. SASKIA HERO (10) M. Jones 5.10. 35. 35TH. SASKIA HERO (10) M. Jones 5.10. 36. 36TH. SASKIA HERO (10) M. Jones 5.10. 37. 37TH. SASKIA HERO (10) M. Jones 5.10. 38. 38TH. SASKIA HERO (10) M. Jones 5.10. 39. 39TH. SASKIA HERO (10) M. Jones 5.10. 40. 40TH. SASKIA HERO (10) M. Jones 5.10. 41. 41TH. SASKIA HERO (10) M. Jones 5.10. 42. 42TH. SASKIA HERO (10) M. Jones 5.10. 43. 43TH. SASKIA HERO (10) M. Jones 5.10. 44. 44TH. SASKIA HERO (10) M. Jones 5.10. 45. 45TH. SASKIA HERO (10) M. Jones 5.10. 46. 46TH. SASKIA HERO (10) M. Jones 5.10. 47. 47TH. SASKIA HERO (10) M. Jones 5.10. 48. 48TH. SASKIA HERO (10) M. Jones 5.10. 49. 49TH. SASKIA HERO (10) M. Jones 5.10. 50. 50TH. SASKIA HERO (10) M. Jones 5.10. 51. 51TH. SASKIA HERO (10) M. Jones 5.10. 52. 52TH. SASKIA HERO (10) M. Jones 5.10. 53. 53TH. SASKIA HERO (10) M. Jones 5.10. 54. 54TH. SASKIA HERO (10) M. Jones 5.10. 55. 55TH. SASKIA HERO (10) M. Jones 5.10. 56. 56TH. SASKIA HERO (10) M. Jones 5.10. 57. 57TH. SASKIA HERO (10) M. Jones 5.10. 58. 58TH. SASKIA HERO (10) M. Jones 5.10. 59. 59TH. SASKIA HERO (10) M. Jones 5.10. 60. 60TH. SASKIA HERO (10) M. Jones 5.10. 61. 61TH. SASKIA HERO (10) M. Jones 5.10. 62. 62TH. SASKIA HERO (10) M. Jones 5.10. 63. 63TH. SASKIA HERO (10) M. Jones 5.10. 64. 64TH. SASKIA HERO (10) M. Jones 5.10. 65. 65TH. SASKIA HERO (10) M. Jones 5.10. 66. 66TH. SASKIA HERO (10) M. Jones 5.10. 67. 67TH. SASKIA HERO (10) M. Jones 5.10. 68. 68TH. SASKIA HERO (10) M. Jones 5.10. 69. 69TH. SASKIA HERO (10) M. Jones 5.10. 70. 70TH. SASKIA HERO (10) M. Jones 5.10. 71. 71TH. SASKIA HERO (10) M. Jones 5.10. 72. 72TH. SASKIA HERO (10) M. Jones 5.10. 73. 73TH. SASKIA HERO (10) M. Jones 5.10. 74. 74TH. SASKIA HERO (10) M. Jones 5.10. 75. 75TH. SASKIA HERO (10) M. Jones 5.10. 76. 76TH. SASKIA HERO (10) M. Jones 5.10. 77. 77TH. SASKIA HERO (10) M. Jones 5.10. 78. 78TH. SASKIA HERO (10) M. Jones 5.10. 79. 79TH. SASKIA HERO (10) M. Jones 5.10. 80. 80TH. SASKIA HERO (10) M. Jones 5.10. 81. 81TH. SASKIA HERO (10) M. Jones 5.10. 82. 82TH. SASKIA HERO (10) M. Jones 5.10. 83. 83TH. SASKIA HERO (10) M. Jones 5.10. 84. 84TH. SASKIA HERO (10) M. Jones 5.10. 85. 85TH. SASKIA HERO (10) M. Jones 5.10. 86. 86TH. SASKIA HERO (10) M. Jones 5.10. 87. 87TH. SASKIA HERO (10) M. Jones 5.10. 88. 88TH. SASKIA HERO (10) M. Jones 5.10. 89. 89TH. SASKIA HERO (10) M. Jones 5.10. 90. 90TH. SASKIA HERO (10) M. Jones 5.10. 91. 91TH. SASKIA HERO (10) M. Jones 5.10. 92. 92TH. SASKIA HERO (10) M. Jones 5.10. 93. 93TH. SASKIA HERO (10) M. Jones 5.10. 94. 94TH. SASKIA HERO (10) M. Jones 5.10. 95. 95TH. SASKIA HERO (10) M. Jones 5.10. 96. 96TH. SASKIA HERO (10) M. Jones 5.10. 97. 97TH. SASKIA HERO (10) M. Jones 5.10. 98. 98TH. SASKIA HERO (10) M. Jones 5.10. 99. 99TH. SASKIA HERO (10) M. Jones 5.10. 100. 100TH. SASKIA HERO (10) M. Jones 5.10.

**3.20** BUSINESS NETWORK NOVICE H'CAP CHASE (CLASS E) £4,500 added 2m 4f

1. 2ND. INFLUENCE PEDLER (10) M. Jones 5.10. 2. 3RD. INFLUENCE PEDLER (10) M. Jones 5.10. 3. 4TH. INFLUENCE PEDLER (10) M. Jones 5.10. 4. 5TH. INFLUENCE PEDLER (10) M. Jones 5.10. 6. 6TH. INFLUENCE PEDLER (10) M. Jones 5.10. 7. 7TH. INFLUENCE PEDLER (10) M. Jones 5.10. 8. 8TH. INFLUENCE PEDLER (10) M. Jones 5.10. 9. 9TH. INFLUENCE PEDLER (10) M. Jones 5.10. 10. 10TH. INFLUENCE PEDLER (10) M. Jones 5.10. 11. 11TH. INFLUENCE PEDLER (10) M. Jones 5.10. 12. 12TH. INFLUENCE PEDLER (10) M. Jones 5.10. 13. 13TH. INFLUENCE PEDLER (10) M. Jones 5.10. 14. 14TH. INFLUENCE PEDLER (10) M. Jones 5.10. 15. 15TH. INFLUENCE PEDLER (10) M. Jones 5.10. 16. 16TH. INFLUENCE PEDLER (10) M. Jones 5.10. 17. 17TH. INFLUENCE PEDLER (10) M. Jones 5.10. 18. 18TH. INFLUENCE PEDLER (10) M. Jones 5.10. 19. 19TH. INFLUENCE PEDLER (10) M. Jones 5.10. 20. 20TH. INFLUENCE PEDLER (10) M. Jones 5.10. 21. 21TH. INFLUENCE PEDLER (10) M. Jones 5.10. 22. 22TH. INFLUENCE PEDLER (10) M. Jones 5.10. 23. 23TH. INFLUENCE PEDLER (10) M. Jones 5.10. 24. 24TH. INFLUENCE PEDLER (10) M. Jones 5.10. 25. 25TH. INFLUENCE PEDLER (10) M. Jones 5.10. 26. 26TH. INFLUENCE PEDLER (10) M. Jones 5.10. 27. 27TH. INFLUENCE PEDLER (10) M. Jones 5.10. 28. 28TH. INFLUENCE PEDLER (10) M. Jones 5.10. 29. 29TH. INFLUENCE PEDLER (10) M. Jones 5.10. 30. 30TH. INFLUENCE PEDLER (10) M. Jones 5.10. 31. 31TH. INFLUENCE PEDLER (10) M. Jones 5.10. 32. 32TH. INFLUENCE PEDLER (10) M. Jones 5.10. 33. 33TH. INFLUENCE PEDLER (10) M. Jones 5.10. 34. 34TH. INFLUENCE PEDLER (10) M. Jones 5.10. 35. 35TH. INFLUENCE PEDLER (10) M. Jones 5.10. 36. 36TH. INFLUENCE PEDLER (10) M. Jones 5.10. 37. 37TH. INFLUENCE PEDLER (10) M. Jones 5.10. 38. 38TH. INFLUENCE PEDLER (10) M. Jones 5.10. 39. 39TH. INFLUENCE PEDLER (10) M. Jones 5.10. 40. 40TH. INFLUENCE PEDLER (10) M. Jones 5.10. 41. 41TH. INFLUENCE PEDLER (10) M. Jones 5.10. 42. 42TH. INFLUENCE PEDLER (10) M. Jones 5.10. 43. 43TH. INFLUENCE PEDLER (10) M. Jones 5.10. 44. 44TH. INFLUENCE PEDLER (10) M. Jones 5.10. 45. 45TH. INFLUENCE PEDLER (10) M. Jones 5.10. 46. 46TH. INFLUENCE PEDLER (10) M. Jones 5.10. 47. 47TH. INFLUENCE PEDLER (10) M. Jones 5.10. 48. 48TH. INFLUENCE PEDLER (10) M. Jones 5.10. 49. 49TH. INFLUENCE PEDLER (10) M. Jones 5.10. 50. 50TH. INFLUENCE PEDLER (10) M. Jones 5.10. 51. 51TH. INFLUENCE PEDLER (10) M. Jones 5.10. 52. 52TH. INFLUENCE PEDLER (10) M. Jones 5.10. 53. 53TH. INFLUENCE PEDLER (10) M. Jones 5.10. 54. 54TH. INFLUENCE PEDLER (10) M. Jones 5.10. 55. 55TH. INFLUENCE PEDLER (10) M. Jones 5.10. 56. 56TH. INFLUENCE PEDLER (10) M. Jones 5.10. 57. 57TH. INFLUENCE PEDLER (10) M. Jones 5.10. 58. 58TH. INFLUENCE PEDLER (10) M. Jones 5.10. 59. 59TH. INFLUENCE PEDLER (10) M. Jones 5.10. 60. 60TH. INFLUENCE PEDLER (10) M. Jones 5.10. 61. 61TH. INFLUENCE PEDLER (10) M. Jones 5.10. 62. 62TH. INFLUENCE PEDLER (10) M. Jones 5.10. 63. 63TH. INFLUENCE PEDLER (10) M. Jones 5.10. 64. 64TH. INFLUENCE PEDLER (10) M. Jones 5.10. 65. 65TH. INFLUENCE PEDLER (10) M. Jones 5.10. 66. 66TH. INFLUENCE PEDLER (10) M. Jones 5.10. 67. 67TH. INFLUENCE PEDLER (10) M. Jones 5.10. 68. 68TH. INFLUENCE PEDLER (10) M. Jones 5.10. 69. 69TH. INFLUENCE PEDLER (10) M. Jones 5.10. 70. 70TH. INFLUENCE PEDLER (10) M. Jones 5.10. 71. 71TH. INFLUENCE PEDLER (10) M. Jones 5.10. 72. 72TH. INFLUENCE PEDLER (10) M. Jones 5.10. 73. 73TH. INFLUENCE PEDLER (10) M. Jones 5.10. 74. 74TH. INFLUENCE PEDLER (10) M. Jones 5.10. 75. 75TH. INFLUENCE PEDLER (10) M. Jones 5.10. 76. 76TH. INFLUENCE PEDLER (10) M. Jones 5.10. 77. 77TH. INFLUENCE PEDLER (10) M. Jones 5.10. 78. 78TH. INFLUENCE PEDLER (10) M. Jones 5.10. 79. 79TH. INFLUENCE PEDLER (10) M. Jones 5.10. 80. 80TH. INFLUENCE PEDLER (10) M. Jones 5.10. 81. 81TH. INFLUENCE PEDLER (10) M. Jones 5.10. 82. 82TH. INFLUENCE PEDLER (10) M. Jones 5.10. 83. 83TH. INFLUENCE PEDLER (10) M. Jones 5.10. 84. 84TH. INFLUENCE PEDLER (10) M. Jones 5.10. 85. 85TH. INFLUENCE PEDLER (10) M. Jones 5.10. 86. 86TH. INFLUENCE PEDLER (10) M. Jones 5.10. 87. 87TH. INFLUENCE PEDLER (10) M. Jones 5.10. 88. 88TH. INFLUENCE PEDLER (10) M. Jones 5.10. 89. 89TH. INFLUENCE PEDLER (10) M. Jones 5.10. 90. 90TH. INFLUENCE PEDLER (10) M. Jones 5.10. 91. 91TH. INFLUENCE PEDLER (10) M. Jones 5.10. 92. 92TH. INFLUENCE PEDLER (10) M. Jones 5.10. 93. 93TH. INFLUENCE PEDLER (10) M. Jones 5.10. 94. 94TH. INFLUENCE PEDLER (10) M. Jones 5.10. 95. 95TH. INFLUENCE PEDLER (10) M. Jones 5.10. 96. 96TH. INFLUENCE PEDLER (10) M. Jones 5.10. 97. 97TH. INFLUENCE PEDLER (10) M. Jones 5.10. 98. 98TH. INFLUENCE PEDLER (10) M. Jones 5.10. 99. 99TH. INFLUENCE PEDLER (10) M. Jones 5.10. 100. 100TH. INFLUENCE PEDLER (10) M. Jones 5.10.

**3.50** HOLIDAY TIME MAIDEN HURDLE (F) (Div 1) £2,400 added 2m 11 110yds

1. 2ND. AMES BAN (10) M. Jones 5.10. 2. 3RD. AMES BAN (10) M. Jones 5.10. 3. 4TH. AMES BAN (10) M. Jones 5.10. 4. 5TH. AMES BAN (10) M. Jones 5.10. 6. 6TH. AMES BAN (10) M. Jones 5.10. 7. 7TH. AMES BAN (10) M. Jones 5.10. 8. 8TH. AMES BAN (10) M. Jones 5.10. 9. 9TH. AMES BAN (10) M. Jones 5.10. 10. 10TH. AMES BAN (10) M. Jones 5.10. 11. 11TH. AMES BAN (10) M. Jones 5.10. 12. 12TH. AMES BAN (10) M. Jones 5.10. 13. 13TH. AMES BAN (10) M. Jones 5.10. 14. 14TH. AMES BAN (10) M. Jones 5.10. 15. 15TH. AMES BAN (10) M. Jones 5.10. 16. 16TH. AMES BAN (10) M. Jones 5.10. 17. 17TH. AMES BAN (10) M. Jones 5.10. 18. 18TH. AMES BAN (10) M. Jones 5.10. 19. 19TH. AMES BAN (10) M. Jones 5.10. 20. 20TH. AMES BAN (10) M. Jones 5.10. 21. 21TH. AMES BAN (10) M. Jones 5.10. 22. 22TH. AMES BAN (10) M. Jones 5.10. 23. 23TH. AMES BAN (10) M. Jones 5.10. 24. 24TH. AMES BAN (10) M. Jones 5.10. 25. 25TH. AMES BAN (10) M. Jones 5.10. 26. 26TH. AMES BAN (10) M. Jones 5.10. 27. 27TH. AMES BAN (10) M. Jones 5.10. 28. 28TH. AMES BAN (10) M. Jones 5.10. 29. 29TH. AMES BAN (10) M. Jones 5.10. 30. 30TH. AMES BAN (10) M. Jones 5.10. 31. 31TH. AMES BAN (10) M. Jones 5.10. 32. 32TH. AMES BAN (10) M. Jones 5.10. 33. 33TH. AMES BAN (10) M. Jones 5.10. 34. 34TH. AMES BAN (10) M. Jones 5.10. 35. 35TH. AMES BAN (10) M. Jones 5.10. 36. 36TH. AMES BAN (10) M. Jones 5.10. 37. 37TH. AMES BAN (10) M. Jones 5.10. 38. 38TH. AMES BAN (10) M. Jones 5.10. 39. 39TH. AMES BAN (10) M. Jones 5.10. 40. 40TH. AMES BAN (10) M. Jones 5.10. 41. 41TH. AMES BAN (10) M. Jones 5.10. 42. 42TH. AMES BAN (10) M. Jones 5.10. 43. 43TH. AMES BAN (10) M. Jones 5.10. 44. 44TH. AMES BAN (10) M. Jones 5.10. 45. 45TH. AMES BAN (10) M. Jones 5.10. 46. 46TH. AMES BAN (10) M. Jones 5.10. 47. 47TH. AMES BAN (10) M. Jones 5.10. 48. 48TH. AMES BAN (10) M. Jones 5.10. 49. 49TH. AMES BAN (10) M. Jones 5.10. 50. 50TH. AMES BAN (10) M. Jones 5.10. 51. 51TH. AMES BAN (10) M. Jones 5.10. 52. 52TH. AMES BAN (10) M. Jones 5.10. 53. 53TH. AMES BAN (10) M. Jones 5.10. 54. 54TH. AMES BAN (10) M. Jones 5.10. 55. 55TH. AMES BAN (10) M. Jones 5.10. 56. 56TH. AMES BAN (10) M. Jones 5.10. 57. 57TH. AMES BAN (10) M. Jones 5.10. 58. 58TH. AMES BAN (10) M. Jones 5.10. 59. 59TH. AMES BAN (10) M. Jones 5.10. 60. 60TH. AMES BAN (10) M. Jones 5.10. 61. 61TH. AMES BAN (10) M. Jones 5.10. 62. 62TH. AMES BAN (10) M. Jones 5.10. 63. 63TH. AMES BAN (10) M. Jones 5.10. 64. 64TH. AMES BAN (10) M. Jones 5.10. 65. 65TH. AMES BAN (10) M. Jones 5.10. 66. 66TH. AMES BAN (10) M. Jones 5.10. 67. 67TH. AMES BAN (10) M. Jones 5.10. 6

Third Test: Kallis and Kirsten's slow progress against England does little to enhance a spectacle stifled by stricture

# No runs or bad habits

BY DAVE HADFIELD  
at Old Trafford

LANCASHIRE SOLD 11,000 tickets in advance for the first day of the Old Trafford Test. Hundreds of people must therefore have turned up yesterday morning dressed as carrots and been turned away because the ground was less than half full and lacking in atmosphere.

The Lancashire secretary, Dave Edmundson, did not believe the county's ban on overtaking in alcohol was responsible for the poor turn-out. He had other theories, like the cold and unsettled summer, the World Cup and that watching England in Tests equals watching a losing team.

Whatever the reasons, it was sober, sombre, cricket with no transgressive streakers or drunken nuns to enliven proceedings. A small crowd of the Pavilion amounted to the only dash of colour, although you would have felt pretty unlucky if your tickets had put you directly behind them.

The mood was not helped by the funeral pace of the play.

South Africa, ahead in the series, looked to have a draw firmly in mind from the first few overs and it took Gary Kirsten two hours to accumulate 24 runs. It was enough to drive you to drink, if you had brought any.

"It was a step we had to take, because of the unprecedented number of complaints about abusive language and drunkenness last year," said Lancashire's chief executive, Jim Coombs, of the booze ban.

The thousands of cans collected after that Test were predominantly ones that had been brought into the ground, often full of lager at six and seven per cent alcohol. "And if you get six of them down you before lunch, you're already on your way."

The argument over dressing up is one of safety, Coombs said. "If people can't see where they are going, and fall down and break their legs, it's your responsibility." Therefore, the carrots have been rooted out and the nuns have had to break the habit.

That would have made it easier to concentrate on the cricket, if the cricket had been particularly worth concentrating on.



Row of empty seats testify to Test cricket's waning appeal at Old Trafford yesterday

Peter Jay

ing on. Jacques Kallis did at least raise the tempo slightly, soon overtaking Kirsten, whose scoring rate remained one that would have done justice to that other obdurate South African, Jackie McGlew, who died earlier this summer.

Kallis and Kirsten both progressed - if that is not too racy a term for Kirsten - to their fifties and Kallis to his second Test century. From an English point of view, it was more of an ordeal than an orgy, less a party than a wake to mark the

series being buried on this lifeless wicket.

These were understandable tactics from South Africa, but as afternoon drifted into evening it looked more and more as though Old Trafford's defences had been breached after all.

There were men around in what Lancashire call "full body suits", dressed from head to toe in white. And the cause for offence was that they were pretending to be in some way connected with the entertainment industry.

## Croft lacks necessary imagination

BY HENRY BLOFELD

THERE WAS, from England's point of view, a sad inevitability about the first day's play from the moment it was made known that both spinners would play. The toss became crucial, for it was extremely important that England should bat first and, therefore, be able to bowl last when the pitch would be at its most responsive to spin.

In this situation, Sod's Law has an unhappy way of raising its head. The last time England were similarly placed was in Georgetown on the recent tour of the West Indies. Robert Croft and Phil Tufnell were the bowlers and it was hoped they would spin England to victory in the last innings.

Mike Atherton had won the toss in the first three Tests there and maybe it was tempting providence. He called wrong at Borda, the West Indies batted and Chanderpaul and Lara scored 118 and 93 respectively and made sure of a West Indies victory. One had a sense of foreboding yesterday when the captains went out to toss. Luck does not often treat those who need it most with kindness.

Stewart had won the toss. They bowled tightly enough without finding much spin against batsmen who were determined to play England out of the match and were prepared to take their time about it.

Although Croft has played in the first three Tests, he has not really looked as if he is going to bowl batsmen out. There is something rather plain and unimaginative about his bowling at the moment. It is as if he lacks the confidence to give the ball air in order to beat the batsman in the flight or to experiment in other ways.

If the pitch is not responsive to spin, a finger-spinner must try and use other avenues. Finger-spinners from overseas learn from the start that they must fight the ball if they are to succeed in these conditions. Lance Gibbs, the West Indian off-spinner who became the second bowler to take 300 Test wickets, was a past master at the art of sleight. Hughie Tayfield, of South Africa, was another who used the air.

When batsmen are prepared to take their time, as Jacques Kallis and Gary Kirsten were, the ball thrown up generously in the air can have a disconcerting effect. As it was, Giles' second spell in which he bowled eight overs for 13 runs was the best by a spinner all day. Croft was too timid for his own good.

## Weston strikes the right note

FAST-CLIMBING Worcestershire wrapped up a second successive home win when trouncing bottom-of-the-table Northamptonshire by 157 runs in two days at New Road yesterday.

The opener Philip Weston carried his bat for the second time in his career with an unbeaten 91 out of 212 before the visitors were rolled over for 77.

Phil Newport instigated the collapse in an opening spell of 9-7-3-3 and Tom Moody followed up with three for 24 for a match return of seven for 44.

Moody said: "We certainly didn't expect to bowl them out for 77. We thought that, if we go half way today, we would have a good chance to finish it tomorrow. It was one of those things that we managed to hold every opportunity and they seemed to nick everything."

The game was completed in 190.5 overs through a combination of circumstances - swinging conditions, a grassy pitch, precise seam bowling and inadequate batting.

The only injustice was that Franklin Rose finished on the losing side with match figures of 11 for 90 as the Championship back-markers created an anomaly in suffering their first defeat of the season.

The second day began with a first duck this summer for Worcestershire's Graeme Hick, but Weston eventually anchored the home side to the highest score of the contest.

In 286 minutes of concentration, he hit 16 fours and a six but also went 57 minutes without a run at one stage. The key partnership was with Moody (33) and Richard Illingworth (28).

Devon Malcolm heliately stirred up a storm with three expensive wickets and Rose knocked over the last two to finish with four for 51.

Northamptonshire were set to make 235 but lost their first two wickets to Newport for one run and a third at 21.

Rob Bailey battled it out for 24 in 134 minutes, only for the innings to fall apart when he was caught behind off Moody. Bobby Chapman then rushed through the lower order to take a career best four for nine in 61 overs.

BY DAWN LLEWELLYN  
at SwanseaGlamorgan 197 & 170-6  
Surrey 199

IT IS a truth universally acknowledged that anyone in search of cricket's Holy Grail, the County Championship, would be well served by fielding two spinners as often as possible. History dictates that the slow approach pays dividends. Embury and Edmonds (Middlesex), Such and Childs (Essex) and Laker and Lock, then Pocock and Intikhab (the last two pairs for Surrey) are all examples. To that honourable list may well be added yet another Surrey pair: Ian Salisbury and Saqlain Mushtaq.

They have been doing their bit for the Oval cause this summer, playing a significant role in Surrey's four victories so far this season, wins which have taken them to the top of the

County Championship. Both men figure prominently in the national bowling averages. Coming in to this match Saqlain, the Pakistani test off-spinner, had taken 24 wickets at a fraction over 18, Salisbury 23 at 22.82.

And here they were at it again. Saqlain adopting a more muted role, content to let his leg-spinning partner pick off the Glamorgan batsmen. Salisbury, who, until yesterday had not bowled in a match for three weeks after tearing groin muscles at Leicester in the Benson & Hedges Cup semi-final, made up for his absence in the first innings with a bewitching spell that left the defending champions bewildered and not a little bemused.

Once again the only Glamorgan batsman to offer any hope was captain Matthew Maynard, opening the innings and scoring a half century. In total he contributed 71, sharing

in a stand of 78 with Adrian Dale. But having allowed Surrey's last four wickets to add a further 92 in the morning session, thereby conceding a two-run first innings lead, there was too much for one man to do.

Salisbury and Saqlain made sure of that. The latter did for 41, while Maynard was one of four victims in the day for Salisbury, sweeping a delivery straight to the waiting Jason Ratcliffe at deep square leg.

Michael Powell failed to pick the goosy and was bowled, Tony Cottee was stumped having a heavy to leg and Gary Butcher was snapped up at slip. Salisbury gave very little away either; his 22 overs to date costing 44 runs.

BY JON CULLEY  
at Trent BridgeMiddlesex 198 & 0-1  
v Nottinghamshire 413

MEMBERSHIP ON this ground has represented particularly poor value this season, the 10 first XI matches here before this one resulting in one Nottinghamshire win and nine defeats, the one win being over the Minor Counties in the Benson and Hedges Cup. This match, however, should bring reward for Trent Bridge loyalists.

After the satisfaction of bowling out Middlesex for 198 on Wednesday, Nottinghamshire ground out a position of strength largely on the back of two innings of differing character from two of the younger members of their transitional side. The five hours and 42 minutes 21-year-old Usman Afsar occupied in making 73 was hardly the thing to keep

parties of restless schoolchildren in their seats but in demoralising the Middlesex attack it was mightily effective. It made matters easier for Chris Read, Nottinghamshire's 19-year-old wicketkeeper, to conjure up the fluent 76 that may have battered the visitors out of this match.

A bright future is predicted for Read, who toured Kenya and Sri Lanka with England A last winter without having played a first-class match. He is highly enough thought of for his ability behind the stumps, but the Devonian's position is stronger still after demonstrating what he can do in front of them. He revealed a useful range of strokes, picking off boundaries on both sides of the wicket, including a reverse sweep off a surprised Phil Tufnell among 12 boundaries.

It was a shame for Nottinghamshire's prospects of turning their young guests into

future members that most of the two hours and 11 minutes of Read's Championship-best innings came after the schoolchildren had gone home, taking with them the fading memory of Afsar's soporific progress.

Not everyone can be a dasher, of course, and Afsar might be tempted to remind any detractors that it was around a similarly obdurate innings by him that his county constructed their only Championship win so far, over Warwickshire at Edgbaston.

He scored runs from just 42 of the 251 balls he faced but while he was wearing down Middlesex's bowlers, runs from Graeme Archer and Paul Strang as well as Read enabled Nottinghamshire to pass 400, despite seamer Chris Batt's six-wicket Championship debut haul. Middlesex lost night-watchman Richard Johnson in the one over they had to face before the close and trail by 215.

## Yorkshire attack humbles Kent

BY JOHN COLLIS  
at MaidstoneYorkshire 423-7dec  
Kent 165

KENT'S last-wicket pair of Min Patel and Ben Phillips rescued their team from complete humiliation yesterday evening with the only meaningful stand of the innings, adding a defiant 66 runs to the home side's previously paltry effort, though when play ended with the wicket of Phillips, Kent were still 258 adrift.

Summer had come and gone from Maidstone on Wednesday, in the time it took Darren Lehmann and Gavin Hamilton to put Yorkshire in command. But early yesterday Martin McCague brushed them aside within an over.

Yorkshire then moved towards declaration. Thanks to Chris Silverwood and Richard Stamp, who added 109 runs in 24 overs. This allowed David Byas to declare in time to capture the wicket of Robert Key before lunch. The clouds thickened and, though the wicket remains docile, this became a bowler's game once more. Indeed, a remarkable sequence of 16 balls after lunch saw Kent lose a further four wickets. They have accrued fewer batting points than any other side this season, just seven from nine games.

Credit, however, must go to the Yorkshire attack. Without Darren Gough and Craig White they simply wheel on another brace of quick bowlers. Supporting Silverwood here are Hamilton, who has looked very fiery, the promising left-arm Paddy Hutchinson and 20-year-old Ryan Sidebottom, son of Arnie.

After Trevor Ward succumbed to Silverwood it proved to be one of Carl Hooper's off days. He missed his third ball and wandered away. Alan Wells and Mark Ealham put Hutchinson on a hat-trick, beaten for pace, but next ball Matthew Fleming survived an appeal for a short-leg catch.

David Fulton stood firm, but suddenly decided to shoulder arms to a full-length ball from Stump. Steve Marsh lost two stumps to Hamilton, again unsighted by speed, and then Sidebottom took the ball. Yorkshire's junior seamer has an awkward run-up in which his left ankle seems to crumple before delivery, but with his first ball he scuttled the belligerent Fleming, and McCague followed a ball later, both low to creeping deliveries.

But in evening gloom the plucky pair batted on, putting earlier contributions into perspective, and they would have felt like kings at close of play.

### Britannic Assurance Championship

Derbyshire v Essex

Derbyshire (5) 247-4 (Essex (4) 199-2) require 232 runs to beat Derbyshire (4) with 6 Second Innings wickets in hand.

Derbyshire won toss

Derbyshire - First Innings 247-4 (Essex (4) 199-2)

Derbyshire - Second Innings 112-3

Derbyshire - First Innings 247-4 (Essex (4) 199-2)

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# Hoddle's sad journey to nowhere



EAMON DUNPHY

ENGLAND CAN be proud of its footballers. They departed the World Cup with honour after losing to a very good side in circumstances of misfortune. Over that memorable two hours in St Etienne the world was reminded precisely why the English are respected. And feared. The great English warriors relish adversity: courage is given, decency inherent. Genius is also a characteristic in this story embodied by Michael Owen.

At the beginning of this tournament I recalled a time when it was possible to fancy England to be serious World Cup contenders. That optimism was founded on respect for the emerging generation of young English players, a number of whom played for Manchester United, a couple for Liverpool (Owen and Fowler) who were playing the game with verve, imagination, admirable aggression and awesome self-confidence.

An England team with the Neville brothers, Paul Scholes, Nicky Butt, David Beckham, Robbie Fowler and Michael Owen forming its core, with David Seaman, Tony Adams and Alan Shearer providing experi-

ence and leadership, would be formidable in any arena. Then there was Paul Ince and David Batty to do for England in 1998 what Nobby Stiles had done in 1966.

Such a team would have an identity which would be distinctly English. Alas, such a team was not to be. Glenn Hoddle, Man of Destiny, decreed otherwise. The most regrettable aspect of England's World Cup campaign is that Hoddle appears to have survived, still spoofing to the sad end of a journey which led to nowhere because he misread the map. Instead of a rigorous analysis of Hoddle's disingenuousness, his perverse team selections, his absolute failure to identify his team's strengths and proceed accordingly, one reads in Wednesday morning's quality broadsheets about David Beckham's culpability.

"Is Beckham what's wrong with

the country?" the *Daily Telegraph* mused - in colour - on its front page. That such a question should even arise is a grave indictment of The Man of Destiny charged with nurturing England's young footballers.

To be fair to the *Telegraph's* polemicist it was not he, rather Hoddle, who contrived to make David Beckham "The Issue". Faced with the consequences of an error, omitting Beckham from the original England team, Hoddle spun the media a cock-and-bull story which questioned the Manchester United player's fitness for battle when he joined the squad before the tournament. Here the Man of Destiny had two objectives: a rationalisation of his error and characteristic impulse to demonstrate his healing skills. He, The Man of Destiny, had helped "the boy" rediscover the "focus" Alex Ferguson had allowed Beckham to lose.

This contention is risible unless, like Beckham, you have to live with the consequences of it. Instead of being a footballer, which at World Cup finals is challenge enough, Beckham became "An Issue". Still, when England were in trouble, this young man came off the bench to score a magnificent goal, which embellished an outstanding performance, against Colombia. Hoddle slyly stole the credit.

Beckham's petulant behaviour against Argentina will not have surprised anyone familiar with his game. We have seen this trait before. The Man of Destiny must have known that this outstanding player was prone to lapses like the one which caused him to be dismissed on Tuesday night. A better coach might have counselled Beckham against retaliation. Hoddle chose to work on an alleged "lack of focus".

Responsibility for players' behaviour rests with the coach. Therefore the question we might profitably ask is: Is Glenn Hoddle what's wrong with the country? To which even this sceptic is obliged to reply: No. Glenn Hoddle is simply the wrong man to manage England's football affairs.

He was wrong on the Beckham/Anderton question. Wrong about how best to deploy Michael Owen in France. Had Owen started against Romania, England would not have lost. Thus, they would have played Croatia, won, and be preparing today to face the Germans in Lyons tomorrow. Is that too simple a concept for a traumatised nation to digest?

Probably. Paper will never refuse ink. There is undoubtedly more profound agonising ahead this weekend. But,

boldly stated, football is a relatively simple game. And so, for those intent on seeking deeper significance, and those on English terraces next season intent on torturing Beckham, a few simple thoughts that might usefully be added to the equation: there are no Men of Destiny; Glenn Hoddle's tactics are un-English and therefore wrong; he was wrong to send Nicky Butt and Phil Neville home; the timing of his decision on Paul Gascoigne was designed to cast the Man of Destiny as a strong man as well; this was not the best prepared English team of all time - Hoddle's most gratuitous claim.

Terry Venables and Bobby Robson took England further with less talent and more dignity; they languish on television, with Kevin Keegan, Hoddle lives to proselytise another day. Maybe that is what is wrong with England.

## Dutch must lay ghosts to rest

After years of disappointment, the Netherlands have 'a complete team in every respect'. By Phil Shaw

FOR SOMEONE with a pathological dread of aeroplanes, Dennis Bergkamp is surprisingly at ease in the Netherlands' camp. Situated on top of a craggy outcrop of rock, high on a hillside overlooking some spectacular views of Monaco and the Côte d'Azur, most of their hotel simply juts out into thin air.

The illusion, to these squeamish eyes, is of a building hovering on a precipice. Dutch prospects of World Cup glory hang similarly in the balance. After a flying start, in which Bergkamp increasingly occupied that rarefied atmosphere exclusive to great players, defeated by Argentina in tomorrow's quarter-final at Marseille would bring them to earth with a sickening bump.

More than that, it would almost certainly represent Bergkamp's swan-song on the global stage. The next tournament is being co-hosted by South Korea and Japan in 2002, a distance to tax the hardest round-the-world rally driver let alone the Dutch FA minions who are chauffeuring the Arsenal striker to his assignments in France. And besides, he points out with undue modesty: "In four years I will be 33. Maybe I won't be in the team by then."

As one of the most cerebral forwards on the planet, and a finisher so proficient that he needs just one goal to become his country's all-time leading scorer, Bergkamp will doubtless be in demand beyond the millennium. But England's Footballer of the Year is determined to prolong the Netherlands' participation in the finals for more than purely personal reasons. At all the four major competitions in which he has been an integral part of the Dutch set-up, they have flattered to deceive.

The sense of disappointment is always more acute than it would be with, say, Belgium or Austria. That is because Bergkamp and his contemporaries are invariably under

pressure to live up to the legacy of the legendary "Orange" side of Cruyff and Neeskens, Van Hanegem and Krol who lost in the final in both 1974 and 1978 - on the last occasion to Argentina.

"That was a great team, they were my role models and everyone wanted to be like them," says Bergkamp, the icy facade cracking as images of boyhood flicker in his mind. "The second time they reached the final was my first real football memory. I watched it on television at home in Amsterdam and I was very upset afterwards."

Is the past a burden on the current generation? "No," insists Bergkamp. "It would be if we didn't possess the quality to live up to the expectations, but I'm certain we have it."

Johan Cruyff, who will be at the Stade Velodrome as a media pundit, has criticised Guss Hiddink's team for lacking "fantasy". Bergkamp shrugs his shoulders when the subject is mentioned. "That's his job," he says matter-of-factly, though he admits it would be extremely satisfying "if we could achieve what that great team should have done."

First, they must dispose of Argentina, coached by the man who broke his nine-year-old heart by collecting the trophy 20 years ago, Daniel Passarella. Bergkamp was encouraged by their match on Tuesday against an England side full of Highbury friends and Premiership foes.

"What we learned from that game was that you can beat Argentina. England showed the problems you can cause them with pace and a good mentality. They were stronger than them in lots of areas, but the game was decided in those few moments either side of half-time with the free-kick and the sending-off."

Bergkamp, while still unclear about exactly what David Beckham's crime was, agrees that the punishment was unduly harsh. "But it shows that



Dennis Bergkamp: 'England showed the problems you can cause Argentina with pace and spirit'

Allsport

any reaction is fatal," he adds. "The best thing is not to react, even if that's very hard to do sometimes. It happened to me last season."

Although he will not say so explicitly, no doubt for fear of giving Argentina any psychological weapons, you sense he is not unhappy to be facing Passarella's team rather than Glenn Hoddle's. "England quite impressed me and in some ways they were very un-English. There was some excellent passing. It's a shame - just when they were getting stronger - they're gone."

Earlier, Hiddink had spoken of how Argentina have confirmed his prediction that they would be "among the favourites, the strongest teams". He remarked in English that they "played to the limits", which Dutch reporters

took to mean that they operated just within the rules. Either way, Bergkamp is approaching the game with characteristic calm.

"The main quality of this Argentinian team is their passing," he says, perhaps aware that Passarella took few prisoners in his prime. "I like Gabriel Batistuta. I've known him for a few years, from my days in Italy, and he's a great goalscorer."

In general, Bergkamp feels that strikers have been "well protected" during France 98. "I haven't seen too many dirty tackles from behind, although a lot of things happen in a game that people don't actually see and even the cameras don't catch."

Too often in the past, the Dutch have been undermined by their own, reputedly racial

divisions rather than any illegality on their opponents' part. At Euro 96, one of their black players of Surinamese descent, Edgar Davids, was banished from the squad after claiming, in somewhat fruity language, that Hiddink was too heavily influenced by his senior white players.

Some critics have been searching for signs of similar antipathy. They thought they had detected it when the goalkeeper, Edwin van der Sar, lashed out at Winston Bogarde after the defender landed heavily on him during the second-round win over Yugoslavia. Garth Crooks, the former Tottenham striker who has been travelling with Bergkamp and company for the BBC, is a prominent anti-racist but says the incident was viewed without the camp as totally insignificant. Certainly Davids, who had a superb season with Juventus, has been outstanding on his reintegration into the side.

Bergkamp does not duck the question, as I have been warned he might. "It really is a unified squad," he assures me. "We've been together now for six weeks and no one is complaining. That's good because the really tough games are coming now. Our mentality has to be strong."

At the same stage four years ago in Dallas, he was in the Netherlands side that lost 3-2 to Brazil, an exit which left him "feeling terrible". This time, as part of what Johan Neeskens, who is now Hiddink's assistant, calls "a complete team in every respect", Bergkamp is determined that Orange aspiration will be no mere flight of fancy.



## DIARY

ANDREAS MÖLLER has had the call to quit the German squad and return home... from an outraged 'er indoors'. Mrs Möller, seated just yards away from Berti Vogts' dog-out, was upset during the second round match with Mexico - a game in which Andreas appeared as a substitute - when his name kept coming up in the animated instructions Berti Vogts was delivering to his team. Mrs Möller rang her husband on his mobile telephone on the team coach to tell him just that. "She told me: 'Listen, honey, we'll take you home. I don't envy you your position,'" said Möller. He then added: "And I joked: 'That would be good. It couldn't get any worse.'" Möller failed to impress at USA 94 and has been a disappointment so far in France 98. Every English fan no doubt wishes him

well in his quest for a starting place in tomorrow's quarter-final against Croatia... at least all those who forget that it was his penalty, following Gareth Southgate's miss, that stopped England reaching the final of Euro 96.

WITH MANY people from many different countries taking on the role of translator, the occasional error can be excused. However, you would need to have a limited knowledge of football to make the mistake that occurred with Kenny Dalglish's post-match comments recorded on the France 98 website following the England, Argentina match. The former Scotland international's opening remarks were recorded as: "I'm English, so I'm very disappointed."

Compiled by Trevor Haylett

## QUOTES OF THE DAY

"I think I have accomplished my duty. It's time to give up my place to younger players." Romania's Gheorghe Hagi confirms his international retirement.  
"If I spent this week thinking about Brazil and all their great players, I would be terrified by Friday." Denmark's Peter Schmeichel on today's quarter-final.

## Fifa denies drug rumours

By Rupert Metcalfe

THE WORLD football's ruling body yesterday confirmed that every drugs test at the World Cup so far has been negative.

Since the competition began, two players from each team have been selected at random for tests after every match - a total of 224. Keith Cooper, Fifa's press officer, said: "Not one has proved positive. I can assure you. Were any result to be positive, we would announce it immediately."

Fifa was forced to deny that

there had been any positive tests after rumours began to circulate, following England's second-round defeat to Argentina, that some players had failed tests.

"The Argentinians have been informed that all their tests have been negative, as have the English," Cooper added. The two England players selected for random testing were Alan Shearer and Graeme Le Saux, while the two Argentinians were Ariel Ortega and Matias Almeyda.

Diego Maradona yesterday

claimed that he would use the "Hand of God" again if necessary. Argentina's World Cup winner resigned the controversy over the incident in the 1998 finals in Mexico, when he punched the ball into the net beyond the England goalkeeper Peter Shilton during his side's 2-1 quarter-final win, during a television interview.

"I accept the English treated me like a dishonest person and that they thought I had acted in a dishonest way," Maradona said. "But they can't understand these things. I

would do that again to the English or any other side. I have no regrets and would do the same thing again if I had to. People have to realise that from a small boy I have always lived to score goals in whatever way possible."

Another World Cup winner, England's Sir Bobby Charlton has called on Fifa to crack down on players diving by setting up a commission to study videos of matches, and punish those who feign injury. "I have never seen so many people dive," he said in Paris yesterday.

## THE GLOBAL GAME

WORLD CUP AROUND THE WORLD

"The stadium will certainly be hostile, something that does not bother the players too much. The French talk and talk, but we play real football in Italy, and they know it," says winger Francesco Moriero. His team-mate Fabio Cannavaro is even more explicit: "Up to now, all the French have done is whistle at us. It shows that they are afraid of us and above all that they are jealous of our winning mentality: their players who came to

Italy had to learn it from us." "La Repubblica," Rome.

"What the Englishman did cannot be described as violent conduct under the rules. It was a small reaction to a foul by Simone, who, besides, stepped on top of him." "Ole", Buenos Aires, defends David Beckham, Argentinian newspaper have given the errant English midfielder a far smoother ride than most papers in this country.

## France.

Now he's back, it's Zidane and dusted.

(Zinedine scores first, and France win 3-1, £20 pays £2020.)

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11/8 France 15/8 Italy 9/5 Draw

First player to score	1-0	2-0	2-1	3-0	3-1
Djorkaeff	£520	£920	£820	£2520	£2020
Zidane	£520	£920	£820	£2520	£2020
Blanc	£1340	£2520	£2020	£5820	£4520

First player to score	1-0	2-0	2-1	3-0	3-1
Vieri	£420	£720	£720	£3020	£2020
Del Piero	£460	£820	£720	£3020	£2020
Maldini	£3020	£5020	£4520	£13020	£10020

Choose the player who'll score first. Choose the final score. See what you'll win for your £20 stake. Good luck!

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Tonight, Naples. Kick-off 8.00pm. Live on ITV.  
4/5 Brazil 6/1 Denmark 5/2 Draw  
Tomorrow, Marseille. Kick-off 3.30pm. Live on BBC.  
6/4 Argentina 13/8 Holland 15/8 Draw  
Tomorrow, Lyon. Kick-off 8.00pm. Live on BBC.  
4/5 Germany 3/1 Croatia 11/5 Draw

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It's better with a bet on.

Quarter-finals: The Serie A connection will dominate one encounter while the holders take on happy underdogs

# French will play it the Italian way



FRANCE AGAINST Italy derby matches go back to Julius Caesar and Asterix the Gaul, but seldom can the old enemies have been such friends. The teams which meet in the first World Cup Quarter Final at the Stade de France this afternoon know each other inside out.

Seven members of the French squad played in Serie A last season in the same teams as 15 members of the Italian squad. Four other French players have appeared in the Italian League. Youri Djorkaeff, the French striker, is best friends with Gianluca Pagliuca, Italy's goalkeeper. Christian Vieri, the joint top goalscorer in France 98, is half French.

Does this give an advantage to the French or the Italians? Probably to neither on the day. But both teams agree that, if the French win it, will be because their skills have been polished, and their will-to-win reinforced, by experience of the toughest national league in the world.

Zinedine Zidane, who returns after a two-match suspension, said: "At Juventus, I learned how to win. Now, I have only one desire. To win for France. We must have a victory. How we win doesn't matter a toss."

That is Italian talk, even if the language he is speaking is French.

Victory for France depends partly on a defence, in which Marcel Desailly (Milan, 1994-98) and Lillian Thuram (Parma, 1996 to date) have been magnificent so far. Going forward, it depends mostly on Zidane (Juventus, 1995 to date).

The French desperately missed his invention and aggression in the exhausting extra time victory in the last-16 game against Paraguay. He was suspended for two games after treading on a Saudi opponent in the second French game, an act

If the host nation are to reach the last four, they will owe a big debt to today's adversaries. By John Lichfield in Paris

as stupid and pointless as David Beckham's, but much nastier. Zidane, incidentally, described Beckham's sending-off as a "crazy decision".

Although they deny it, it is almost certain that the Italians will take special measures to block Zidane. Dino Baggio, Thuram's Parma team-mate, is expected to mark him.

The French playmaker says the game will be the most important of his career. It may certainly answer the last remaining question about Zidane's ability. Like Eric Cantona before him, the professional criticism of Zidane is that he disappears in the really important matches. He has been a relatively anonymous figure on the losing side in three European finals (one with Bordeaux, two with Juventus).

Zidane, himself, angrily rejects this criticism (as does the French coach, Aimé Jacquet). "It's quite the opposite. I play better when I'm playing a big game," Zidane said. "I won't disappear in the quarter-final. I'm not shitting myself."

The match is also the biggest in Jacquet's 30 years in football. Defeat for the host nation in the quarter-final will be taken by the French press and public as a vindication of their four-year campaign of vilification of the coach.

Some parts of the French press, which dislike his plodding caution, have taken to calling him Mémé Jacquet or "Granny Jacquet". If France win today but lose the semi-final, Granny could retire to his knitting with honour. A last-four place would be grudgingly accepted as respectable.

In truth both France and Italy look to have the beating of Germany

or Croatia; a win today is an option on a place in the final on 12 July.

With Zidane's return, Jacquet's great problem is what it has always been: who will remember to score the goals? This is not the kind of problem which any team wants to take into a match against Italy, even if the Italians have been less solid defensively than usual. Despite protestations to the contrary, the Azzurri are likely to play a holding game.

The seven-goal French hursts against South Africa and Saudi Arabia in the first two matches were misleading. Against Paraguay, the host nation looked what they have looked for several years now: a great team in search of a striker.

David Trézéguet, of Monaco, has had a couple of auditions for the job and failed (even though his header set up Laurent Blanc's golden goal in the second-round match). Thierry Henry, France's leading goalscorer with three from the right wing, is probably out with an ankle injury. At most, he will come on during the second half.

In the last full practice match at the team's forest hideaway at Clairefontaine, Jacquet tried out a new striking formation. Robert Pires on the right, Stéphane Guivarch (soon to join Newcastle United) in the centre and Bernard Diomède on the left.

This implied that the coach might be about to drop Djorkaeff, who was taken to task by some of his team-mates for his unfocused game against Paraguay.

Alternatively, "Granny" Jacquet, deep in the forest of Rambouillet, may just have been trying some tricks to throw the Italian wolves off the scent...



France's Zinedine Zidane, back from suspension, admits that today's quarter-final against Italy is the most important match of his career

## Time for the real Del Piero to shine

ITALY ARE convinced he can win the World Cup for them, but, after firing blanks in all three matches he has played so far, Alessandro del Piero is a man with much to prove.

The Juventus striker scored more than 30 goals last season in Serie A and the Champions' League, in which he was the top scorer in the competition. Italy's coach, Cesare Maldini, hailed him six months ago as a likely star of the finals, but the 23-year-old has made three appearances at France 98 since recovering from a thigh injury, once as a substitute and twice from the start, and has yet to break his duck.

Del Piero is convinced he can come good, however, even though, as he readily admits: "It's not been Del Piero's World Cup, but let's hope it's Italy's."

Part of the problem could be that the 23-year-old often takes a more difficult route, when an easier one is available. But, defending his game, he said: "They way I play is all about taking risks, and I'm happy to take them - sometimes they go well and I score a fantastic goal, sometimes they don't and I make a complete fool of myself. But that's the way I am." Sadly for Italy, Del Piero has been closer to the latter rather than the former whenever he has pulled on a national shirt - except for one good performance which yielded two goals against Brazil in last year's Tournoi de France.

Today sees Italy's biggest obstacle so far on their road to the final: the hosts, France, in the quarter-finals at the Stade de France, a stadium that is bound to be hostile to the Italians. "We are not going to be influenced by the crowd," Del Piero said. "France have a great team but we'll be concentrating on the players and not the people who are behind them."

Also, in a tournament which has already seen the drama of sudden-death victory, Del Piero claimed: "I'm dreaming of scoring a golden goal." Today, he might get the chance but, before then, he will have had every opportunity on the world stage to silence his critics, and to finally prove that he is not a prematurely spent force.

Italy 1/3 France.

It's bound to end in beer!

Nastro Azzurro would like to wish both teams good fortune and a stylish game. But, being Italy's numero uno beer, you can imagine who we hope will be settling into their drinks at the final whistle. After all, you have to look after Numero Uno.

For the Nastro Azzurro, Italy's Numero Uno beer.

## Johansson enjoys life in the shade

The canny Swede in charge of Danish fortunes has exceeded all expectations. By Andrew Warshaw

IF DENMARK manage to reach the semi-finals of the World Cup at the expense of the defending champions, Brazil, tonight, don't expect Bo Johansson to take any of the credit.

The Danish coach, who is in fact Swedish, is modestly personified, a man who refuses, no matter how many times you ask him, to admit that he is in any way responsible for his team's surprise appearance in the last eight at France 98.

Take last Sunday, for example. An hour after Denmark had torn Nigeria apart with the type of display that brought them the European Championship title six years ago, Johansson stood on the podium in the interview room at the Stade de France in St Denis, uncomfotably rebutting all attempts to get him to reveal his magic.

"Look, I can't explain why we did so well tonight," he said with an awkward, almost embarrassed smile. "We are not the best team in the world but we know how to fight. No one can ever say why footballers suddenly find a way of playing at a given time. But I am very pleased that tonight's performance was a bit like the famous Denmark of old."

Asked, inevitably, whether his side could beat Brazil with a similar performance in Nantes, Johansson, virtually unknown outside Scandinavia, puffed out his large cheeks, sighed and shuffled impatiently. "I wouldn't bet on being able to play like this again," he said. "But of course we will try to beat them. We have to."

Johansson is the first coach to take Denmark to the World Cup quarter-finals. Perhaps one of the reasons why is that his players adore him. Unlike the aloof Richard Møller Nielsen, whom Johansson replaced after Euro 96, the new man is approachable and thoughtful, and knows his players' limitations. With his blue eyes, thinning hair and thick-set frame, he is the ultimate gentle giant.

Johansson's football pedigree, like his personality, is modest. Born in Stockholm 55 years ago, he played as a midfielder for Kalmar but was never good enough to make the national team.

As a coach, he had a stint with the Greek club Panionios but has otherwise remained in Scandinavia, where he has worked in every country: Lundsval, Kalmar and Växjö of Sweden, Jerv of Norway, the Icelandic national team, HJK Helsinki of Finland and Silkeborg of Denmark.

It was his spell with the last of these that attracted the interest of the Danish Football Association. In his first season at Silkeborg, Johansson won the championship. He went from there to Finland, but the Danish FA had already earmarked him to take over from Møller Nielsen. They believed he was the man, after a miserable

Euro 96 campaign when Denmark looked a tired, laboured team and were eliminated in the first round, who would give the country back its pride.

They were right. Denmark finished top of their qualifying group for France 98, ahead of Croatia. A 3-0 humiliation by Bosnia in a politically sensitive game was their only blip.

"He always thinks in a positive way," said Thomas Helveg, the Danish midfielder who was outstanding against Nigeria. "He knows there are sometimes problems within the team but, unlike other coaches, he doesn't talk about them."

Home for Johansson is the little Danish port of Dragør, a ferry ride from his Swedish homeland. "For him, small is beautiful," said Fritz Christiansen, the sports editor of the Danish daily newspaper Jyllands-Posten. "He has a small house and small car. He's also incredibly polite. It's really difficult to find any skeletons in his cupboard. If you ask him to comment on bad performances, he won't do it."

Everyone in Denmark was pleasantly surprised by the way Denmark changed their game against Nigeria. "We'd been using the long ball in previous matches but the short-passing game was a delight for us," Christiansen said.



Johansson: Gentle giant

"As an individual display, it was better than anything the country produced when they won the European title in 1992."

No one is suggesting that Denmark will end up emulating their surprise 1992 European Championship triumph, or that the current side are nearly as good as the 1986 vintage that oozed class and style at the Mexico World Cup. But the victory over Nigeria won Johansson's team plenty of new admirers.

"For a country our size to be among the eight best in the world is an enormous achievement," said Peter Schmeichel, who, believe it or not, is playing in his first World Cup. "We were very proud to reach the second stage. We thought that even to be among the best 16 was a massive feat. But to go through in the way we did makes us even prouder."

Another stalwart, the 34-year-old Michael Laudrup, said: "I always said I would love to bow out of the sport by playing a team like Brazil. But now I'd like to go one better. We like being underdogs. We have never enjoyed being favourites. All the pressure will be on Brazil."

## Pele not impressed by Brazilians

BY ANDREW WARSHAW

BRAZIL'S GREATEST player is not convinced that his country can retain their title, even if they beat Denmark today.

"We have qualified for the quarter-final, but we can play a lot better," Pele said. "Frankly, I don't think this side is in good physical condition. Of course we

have the chance to win the Cup because we have individual players who can decide any game. But as a team we haven't really played yet, and we have to improve."

Pele said Denmark, despite their unimpressive first round, would be tougher than either Norway or Scotland. "They have got better defenders plus,

of course, there are the Laudrup brothers. It will be an extremely tough game for us."

Pele, who is representing the World Cup sponsors, Mastercard, at France 98, said the Brazilian coach, Mario Zagallo, needed to play Denilson, the world's most expensive player, from the start instead of as a late substitute. "He should play

up front with Ronaldo. We have been taking too long getting from defence to attack. We need to build up more quickly, and Denilson is superb at counter-attacking."

Pele paid a special tribute to England's Michael Owen: "He is the great player of the tournament. Owen has done better than Ronaldo here so far."



## SPORT



FRANCE RELY ON ZIDANE EFFECT P30 • HOW HENMAN CAN BEAT SAMPRAS P24

Third Test: Stewart's men wriggle in South African stranglehold as second-wicket pair enter the record books

# England trapped in grip of Kallis

BY DEREK PRINGLE  
at Old Trafford

South Africa 237-1 v England

AFTER THE mass anguish and analysis that has accompanied the England football team's departure from France 98, there is nothing quite like a sluggish day's Test cricket to bring a grieving nation to its senses. England have been neither heroic or unlucky here, but then neither have South Africa, who finished the day 237 for 1. The stand between Jacques Kallis, unbeaten on 117, and Gary Kirsten not out on 98, so far equalling South Africa's record, for the second wicket.

It was just under 60 years ago in

OLD TRAFFORD  
SCOREBOARD

South Africa won toss  
SOUTH AFRICA - First innings  
G Kirsten not out ..... 98  
262 runs, 242 balls, 10 fours  
G R J Leferberg b Gough ..... 16  
35 min, 29 balls, 2 fours  
J H Kallis not out ..... 117  
326 runs, 234 balls, 13 fours  
Extras (10) 102 (1st 102)  
Total (for 1, 382 min, 97 overs) ..... 237  
Fall: 1-25 (Leferberg), 2-31 (Cork), 3-31 (Rhodes), 4-31 (Boucher), 5-31 (M. J. G. Smith), 6-31 (P. P. Adams), 7-31 (M. Ntini).  
Bowling: Gough 20-1-64-1 (103 w) (17-1-13-1, 3-0-18-0, 5-0-22-0, 4-0-11-0); Cork 18-3-51-0 (15-1-17-0, 4-2-23-0, 3-0-7-0); Fraser 18-5-19-0 (16-2-23-0, 1-1-10-0); Croft 24-7-42-0 (15-1-11-0, 15-4-25-0, 4-2-6-0); Giles 17-4-41-0 (9-0-28-0, 8-4-13-0); Ramprakash 5-0-17-0 (2-4-4-0, 3-0-13-0).  
Progress: First day: 501 106 min, 26.1 overs, Leferberg 26, Kirsten 26, Kallis 151 31 overs, 180; 153 min, 40.1 overs, 150; 235 min, 62.2 overs, Test 152-1 (Kirsten 98, Kallis 71) 63 overs, 200; 500 min, 80.5 overs, New ball taken after 90 overs at 219-1.  
Kirsten's 50: 203 min, 176 balls, 7 fours, Kallis's 50: 140 min, 101 balls, 7 fours, 100: 246 min, 187 balls, 13 fours.  
ENGLAND: N V Knight, M A Atherton, I Hussain, M J Stewart, G P Thorpe, M R Ramprakash, D G Cork, R O B Croft, A F Giles, O Gough, A R C Fraser.  
Umpires: D B Cowie and P Willey.  
TV Referee: D J Constant.  
Match Referee: Javed Burki.

Durban, that these two countries played for 10 days without getting a result, the so-called "Timeless Test." If England's success rate at taking wickets yesterday was anything to go by, they would not have bowled out South Africa once in that time, let alone twice, and their inability to prise more than one South African batsman from the crease was the most worrying aspect of an uneventful day.

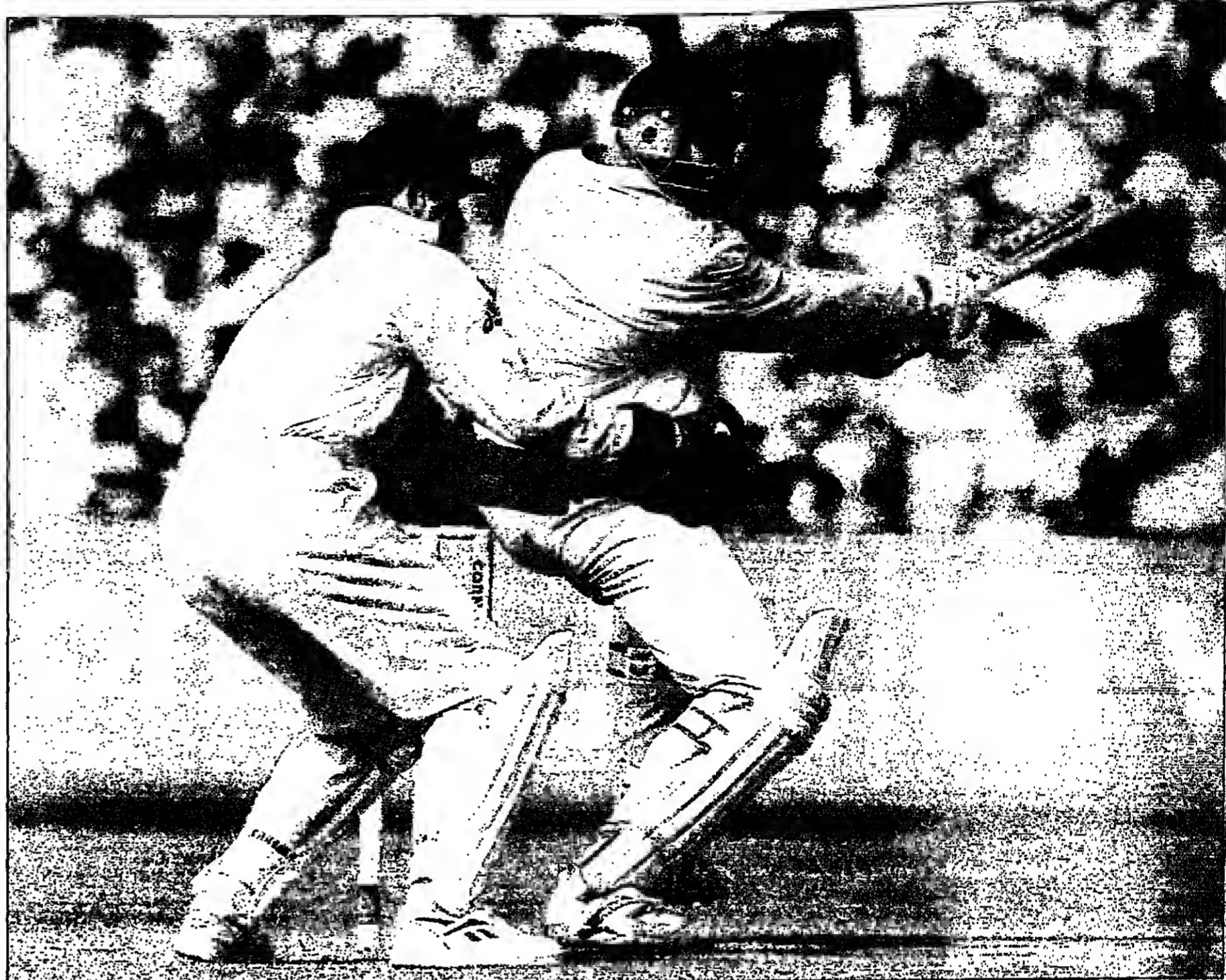
England did not exactly bowl badly, and it was more an average performance by an uninspired bowling attack than a shocker. In fact, Kallis and Kirsten did not dominate, but neither did they look threatened. Both simply played the line of the ball and 99 times out of 100, it found the solid part of the bat.

In some ways this was Test cricket as it used to be played, when light bats were the norm rather than the exception. Indeed, before people get carried away with more doom and gloom about the summer game, it must be added that Manchester crowds are among the most fickle in the land.

First days here, unless against Australia and the West Indies, are rarely sold out. Thirty quid, the cost of a mid-priced ticket, can buy an awful lot of Holt's mild, something unavailable at Old Trafford, even to those who used to bring their own.

What England brought to the game, after leaving Ben Hollis to contemplate a wasted journey up the M6, was another spinner, and the 25-year-old Ashley Giles was duly awarded his first cap. Unless he can find a bit more trickery however, his first wicket may be a while longer.

Faced with a bare and baked surface it was the correct decision, though having lost the toss, England,



Jacques Kallis cuts Mark Ramprakash to the boundary as he moves towards his century for South Africa at Old Trafford yesterday

Peter Jay

no doubt given a small lift by Shaun Pollock's late withdrawal with a thigh strain, will have to bat last on it. Facing Paul Adams after four days of wear and tear will test to the hilt both technique and temperament, neither of them particularly strong suits among England's middle-order.

The benign conditions, more like the Test pitches of old, found England's bowlers wanting. The return of Darren Gough, unfairly lauded as England's saviour after a three-week absence, was muted. But if the bustle and pace were there, the confidence brought by rhythm was lacking, despite the early removal of

Gerhardus Liebenberg, who returned to open in place of Adam Bacher, who has not yet recovered from the shoulder injury he sustained during the last Test.

After the hush, seamer-friendly pastures of Lord's, where England's bowlers were also found wanting, Old Trafford left them with nowhere to hide. It was quite simply bowling, as Shakespeare might have pointed out, sans swing, sans seam, sans spin, sans everything, shortcomings that usually hit home when England are abroad and not at home.

The home side's propensity to sit back and wait does not work against

sides like South Africa, whose batsmen rarely lean towards West Indian impetuosity. Once they get their noses ahead in a series, they need to be forcibly removed by imaginative bowling and captaincy, not smoked out. On a hot sunny day, Stewart and his bowlers could manage neither.

To compound matters, England's fielding, a crucial component of South Africa's overall threat, was moderate. The 50-50 balls Jonty Rhodes and Co tend to mop up with their ring of steel, England either parried for twos or missed altogether.

Only Nasser Hussain, instilled at

cover for the faster bowlers looked suitably predatory. Later when he moved to slip, he missed two chances, the first of them offered by Kirsten as he slashed at Giles.

On 87, he was missed again, this time by Giles off his own bowling, the left-arm spinner only able to parry Kirsten's powerful drive. Otherwise, the opener was unflappable, grinding away like a cow chewing dry grass, a seventh Test century just a shot away this morning.

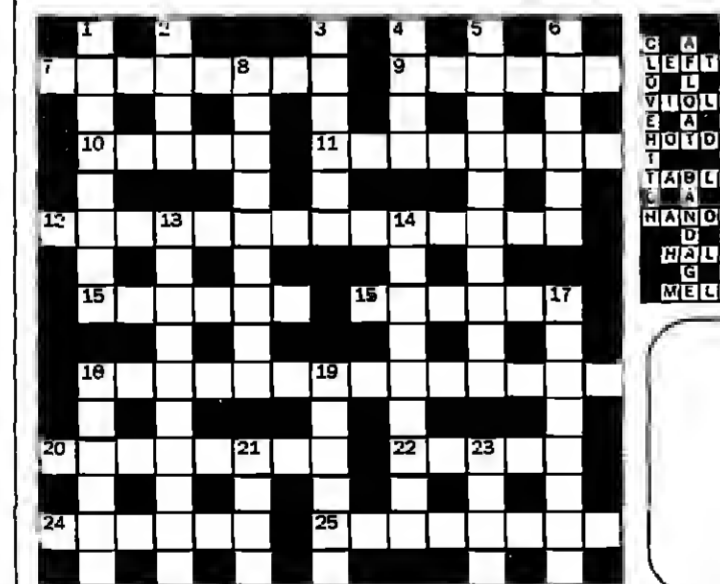
Kallis too enjoyed a life, a low edge off Robert Croft evading Hussain at slip when he was on 77. That hiccup apart, Kallis looked every bit the

class act Middlesex professed he was last season. With no sideways movement to compromise his occasionally lazy feet, Kallis's deft hands took over.

High and stiff in defence, the wrists are quick to break when power is applied, particularly in strokes through mid-wicket. Strength Dominic Cork seemed particularly keen to test. Unless England can get him nibbling just outside of stumps, he could double his current score. If he does, England will have little option than to postpone the ambition and play for the draw. Henry Blofeld, page 1

## THE FRIDAY CROSSWORD

No. 3653, Friday 3 July



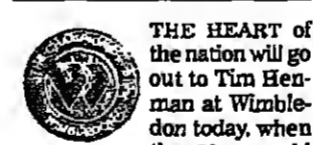
- ACROSS**
- A pupil painting out of doors (8)
  - Youngster who's out of form (6)
  - Small size of type making you p-peet? (5)
  - Fawn abjectly with female around? What it could lead to (8)
  - Property of some distinction? (14)
  - Lying, i.e. not adopting an upright position? (6)
  - Oriental coming westwards encounters respect (6)
  - Relatives you'd greet with arms outstretched? (8, 6)
  - Art of literary expression in OT richer, somehow (8)
  - Fellow embracing Master? This fellow is Master (5)
  - Train from Rugby? (6)
  - Moving forward, forbidding woman to follow prince (8)
- DOWN**
- Careless, so DPhil's failed (8)
  - Song featured in Campari advert (4)
  - Restricting theologian's unemployment benefit, something quite easy (6)
  - Way eastern women will produce hot dish (4)
  - Current falters erratically in Moscow store (4, 6)
  - New book, see, you'll get in London area wholesale (12, 4)
  - Anthology incorporating Spanish article, in part (8)
  - Set piece for declaiming, flamboyant, certain to captivate uncle in Ibiza (10)
  - Change of topic as thereby indicated? (4, 5)
  - Stage in journey where Roman soldier's needing time to cross river (4-4)
  - Itches to reform professional code of conduct (6)
  - Peace process disrupted by second leak (6)
  - Game the French dominate? (4)
  - Upwardly mobile sector of mercantile area (4)

Thursday's solution



## Nerveless Novotna stalls swift Hingis

BY JOHN ROBERTS



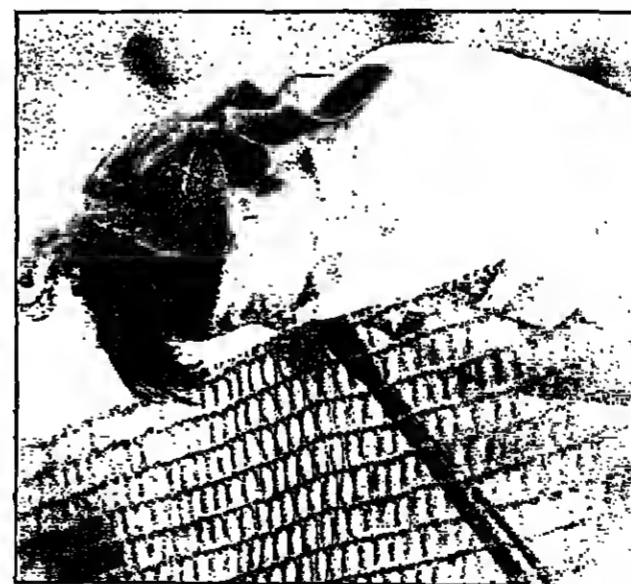
THE HEART of the nation will go out to Tim Henman at Wimbledon today, when the 23-year-old from Oxford attempts to overcome Pete Sampras, the defending champion, and become Britain's first men's singles finalist since Bunny Austin lost to Donald Budge 60 years ago.

Tomorrow, Jana Novotna will be the sentimental favourite on Centre Court when she contests the women's singles final against Nathalie Tauziat, having caused one of the biggest upsets of the tournament yesterday by defeating Martina Hingis, the 17-year-old defending champion.

Novotna, who lost to Hingis in the final last year, is best remembered for her tears on the Duchess of Kent's shoulder after failing to secure a winning position against Steffi Graf in 1993. "Let's just hope what the Duchess of Kent said last year is right," an optimistic Novotna said last night. "She said, 'Third time lucky', so here I am."

Although the 29-year-old Czech lost the first three games against Hingis, the world No 1, yesterday, she had faith that her classical, serve-volley style would prevail against her doubles partner on this occasion. She was proved right, recovering to win 6-4, 6-4, betraying not a trace of nerves when it came to converting the match point.

Hingis, whose only defeats in the four Grand Slam champi-



Hingis shows her frustration yesterday Robert Hallam

onships has been at the French Open since winning the Australian title, aged 16, in January 1997, appeared to have concentrated her mind after dropping a set to Arantxa Sanchez Vicario in the quarter-finals. But once Novotna settled into her stride yesterday, the young Swiss was unable to hold on to her title.

Novotna fell to the ground and punched the grass in triumph at the finish as the crowd rose to give her a rousing reception. "She deserves it," Hingis said. "She's been here twice in the final already, and I think she has a great chance this time."

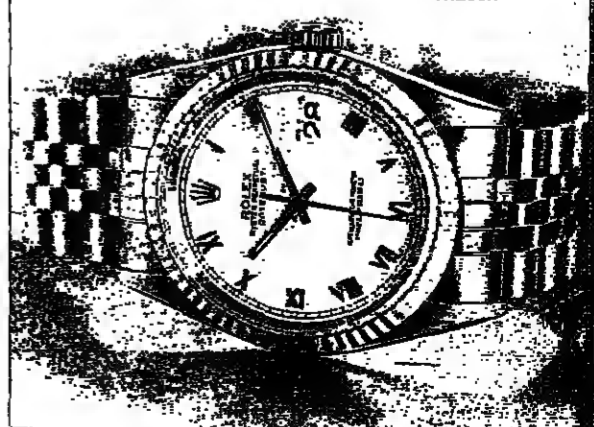
Tauziat, seeded No 16, will be competing in her first Grand Slam final, and on the biggest

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سكرا من الامم

# FRIDAY REVIEW

COMMENT • FEATURES • ARTS • LISTINGS • TELEVISION

## The ballad of Billie-Jo

The girl given up for fostering was happy. Her natural parents were happy. Happy that she was exchanging chaos and hardship in the East End of London for the calm and security of middle-class Hastings. But behind the patio doors was a family with its own turmoil, its own agonies. And then there was Sion Jenkins

BY DEA BIRKETT

She was painting the patio doors. It was a sunny afternoon, the finest day after a miserable half term week, and while her sister Lottie was at her clarinet lesson, 13-year-old Billie-Jo was painting the doors to earn some extra pocket money. It was a typical Saturday scene, in a typical, middle class home. But less than an hour later, two ambulance men were bending over her bloody, battered body, the paintbrush beside her.

Only certain kinds of houses have patios, and the Jenkins's home in Lower Park Road, Hastings, was that kind of house. There were also rabbit hutches, a barbecue, a garden swing and flowering plants in terracotta pots. The Jenkins' three cars were parked outside - Sion's wife Lois's Opel and the Synergie people carrier (there were five girls, Billie-Jo and four natural daughters), and Sion's soft-top white MG. The house was just minutes from the sea. But this English idyll was not Billie-Jo's by birth. At the age of nine, Billie-Jo had been fostered by the Jenkins family. Until then, she had grown up in an entirely different world, in a three-storey red brick Victorian house with patio doors. The reasonable presumption was that the chaos and hardships of her early life in London's East End had been left behind. No one suspected that inside her new home was a family with its own turmoil, its own agonies. No one knew anything about these until, one month after her death, Billie-Jo's foster father Sion Jenkins was charged with her murder.

Billie-Jo had played out the tale of trading places in real life. The battle in court was not only over who killed Billie-Jo, but where she rightly belonged. Billie-Jo's natural father, Bill Jenkins (no relation), has two photographs of his daughter. One was taken in London, with him. It shows a smiling girl wearing a pretty hair band. "She looks lovely," says Bill. The other is when Billie-Jo is older and living in Hastings. "That one's how he wanted her to look - jeans, boots, glasses," says Bill. "Plain straight Jane. Typical headmaster's daughter."

Debbie Jenkins, 41, Billie-Jo's natural mother, had met Bill Jenkins on a blind date in Wandsworth Prison. Another inmate had a girlfriend who knew Debbie was looking for a man. "I was getting out in six weeks, so she came to visit me," says Bill. They married in May 1983, just after Billie-Jo was born, and lived in East Ham. When Billie-Jo was seven, their relationship finally dissolved in arguments, drink and prison spells for both parents. Debbie Jenkins voluntarily handed over her three children - baby Margaret, Billie-Jo and her

older half-brother Daryl - to the care of social services. "I remember her saying no man would have her while she still had three children on her hands," said Shirley O'Sullivan, Debbie's mother. Billie-Jo spent three years in council care. Debbie disappeared.

In February 1992, Lois and Sion Jenkins replied to an advertisement in a local newspaper offering Billie-Jo up for fostering. The Jenkins seemed ideal candidates. Lois was a part-time social worker, and her family had fostered before. Sion was an English teacher at the co-ed McKentee School in Walthamstow. Billie-Jo was in the year above their eldest daughter Annie at Nelson primary school in East Ham. In 1992, Sion got a job as deputy headmaster at the William Parker School for boys in Hastings, and the family moved out of the East End for good, taking Billie-Jo with them.

In Court One of Lewes Crown Court, each faction of Billie-Jo's family was camped out to claim her in death, even if they had abandoned her in life. Sion wore a dark suit and button-down collar. "Look at that hairspray!" a disgusted police officer said to me, as never a single hair was out of place. He referred to Billie-Jo as his daughter, "my daughter", and his four natural daughters, Annie, Lottie, Esther and Maya, as her sisters. Billie-Jo called Lois "Mum", and him "Dad".

In the gallery were the two halves of Billie-Jo's natural family. Debbie Jenkins, painfully thin, sat with her broad, muscled black boyfriend, Harold Coker, known as "H". She was curiously and inappropriately dressed for a murder trial. Just a touch too sexy with her lacy tops a little too tight, her mini-skirt a little too short.

On the opposite side of the gallery was Bill Jenkins' family, a row of gold loop earrings and broken noses. An East End clan of (often unemployed) painters and decorators, throughout the trial there was never less than five of them. Bill Jenkins, 46, and his girlfriend Kim Hunter turned up every day. They will not speak to Debbie Jenkins. Lois never turned up in court, although her father did, anonymously offering to shake Bill's hand, but Bill refused.

Until the afternoon of 15 February 1997, everyone who met Billie-Jo presumed her life was a fairytale transformation. She had "turned a corner" at Helenswood, the school where she enjoyed playing hockey and was the year's representative on the school council. She had a pet gerbil and dog called Buster. In reports, the Jenkins were described as a "loving, middle class family", as if the two adjectives belonged to each other. The whole family attended the local Halton Baptist Church, and Sion was known by his pupils for being a

"hit of a Bible basher". He had stood as a Tory councillor for West St Leonard's in the April 1994 elections, including in his manifesto "more facilities for young people and a ban on alcohol abuse in public places". In December 1996, Sion and Lois had celebrated their 14th wedding anniversary.

Shirley O'Sullivan said: "People had told me Billie-Jo had become a real young lady and I was so very proud." Bill believed it was all for the best. "They kept telling me: 'don't worry about Billie-Jo. She's better off where she is.' All the reports I got back said she goes horseriding, she does this, she does that, she's okay."

Opposite Lower Park Road was Alexandra Park with its boating lake and lawn tennis courts. There was the sound of birds even in the middle of the day. The surrounding street names are all evocations of an ideal suburban life - Park Close, Park Avenue, Park Way. But behind the hydrangea bushes, climbing roses and patio doors was a different story. The respectability Sion Jenkins craved was built on foundations that were sometimes frail, often completely false. After his arrest, it emerged that he had faked his CV. He had said he went to Gordonstoun, the same school as Prince Charles, when he had attended Glasgow Academy. He said he had a degree from the University of Kent in Canterbury; he had a diploma from Nonington College. He said he had taught at schools where he had only been for job interviews. The headmaster designate of Hastings' most prestigious boys' school had almost none of the qualifications he claimed.

Yet at school, Jenkins was regarded as exemplary. Kevin Coley, whom he taught English, recalls: "He was one of the mildest teachers you're going to get. I've seen people in class chucking paper at him and he wouldn't do anything. None of us believe he did it." But, for many years, he had exercised undue violence against his own family. The children were chastised with a "naughty stick". Even the dog, Buster, was kicked. Lois often received the brunt of his fragile temper: he hit her face and pulled her hair. When Sion battered Billie-Jo over 10 times with the 18-inch tent peg, so hard that the metal bent, Billie-Jo was wearing black leggings and a white jumper. They were Lois's clothes. Lois told a police officer soon afterwards: "I thought it would be me." She has not stood by him since he was first arrested.

Peter Gaimster, a family friend, remembered one incident when they were all on holiday together in France. Billie-Jo had sprained her ankle, and gone upstairs to her bedroom in a buff. Sion had followed her. "I got to the open

door," says Peter Gaimster. "I saw Sion throw Billie-Jo violently across the bed... Sion then violently kicked Billie-Jo, using his right leg with full force. Sion looked around and saw me standing there. He must have known I had just seen the attack, walked over to the door and calmly closed the door. The subject was never mentioned again."

Sion Jenkins, the respectable family man, also had affairs, including one with a 17-year-old girl whom he fondled in the back of the people carrier in Battle railway station car park. But none of this adds up to murder. Not even the prosecution could think of a reason for Sion Jenkins to bludgeon his 13-year-old daughter to death.

It was ten days after the murder, a Monday morning, when the police arrested the deputy headmaster at his home. He was released, then re-arrested. The forensic results from his clothing had come through. Although nothing was visible to the naked eye, there were over 150 pinpricks of blood found on his shoes, trousers and matching blue fleece jacket. Such tiny pinpricks could not have been from anything other than "impact splatter" from repeated blows. DC Tina Birnie, one of the investigating officers, said: "We didn't want it to be him. We wanted it to be anyone but him." That wasn't how the story should be written. But it was. Bill Jenkins wryly observes: "All that glitters ain't gold."

Ironically, it is Bill, her natural father, and not Sion, who has the profile in the public's mind of a criminal. When Billie-

Jo was fostered, he was serving a three-year prison sentence for GBH on a police officer. His local high street in Canning Town in the East End of London is nothing like the green promise of Alexandra Park. There are no middle-class pockets. The last social innovation that came to Canning Town was the Sixties tower blocks that still dominate it.

Bill lives part-time with his girlfriend Kim Hunter. Their domestic pets are a Burmese python, a tarantula and a pair of ginger kittens called Reggie and Ronnie, after the Krays. It's a close-knit, East End family, proudly so, where each generation is named after the one that went before. Bill Jenkins was named after his father: Billie-Jo was named after him.

According to Bill Jenkins, there had always been tensions between Sion and himself. He claims to have made an application to have Billie-Jo visit him in prison. "They said that Mr and Mrs Jenkins couldn't go into the system (gaol) because they didn't know what inside looked like. It would be too disconcerting for them type of people to be seen in a place like that, with all these villains, and thieves and murderers."

She said blue. She said she wanted to go to America. I said: 'you will, you will.' Margaret and Bill made a Valentine's card for her. "Things were normal, for once, you know what I mean," said Bill. "Normal. I felt that I was getting control, for once."

This is not a case of a child being wrongfully removed from her natural family. Nor is it a failure of social services to carry out proper checks when placing a child. No one is to blame except Sion Jenkins. But what the case of Billie-Jo has revealed is our belief in the middle class family and all its trappings, trappings that meant so much to Sion Jenkins.

Billie-Jo returned to the East End. She was buried in a traditional funeral with a horse-drawn carriage. No expense was spared. All her fragmented, warring families were there. Despite attempts by the police to trace her, Debbie had cut all links with her daughter, and only found out about Billie-Jo's death by reading the *News of the World* the day after she was murdered. Nevertheless, she became enraged when Lois and the four girls walked into the chapel at City of London cemetery. She walked out, leaving behind her daughter just as she had done many years before.

"They didn't change Billie-Jo by going to Hastings," says Bill Jenkins. "They never changed her. Billie-Jo was Billie-Jo." She is buried close to where she was raised, in a plot with space for Bill to be buried beside her. "I know that I let Billie-Jo down. But I'm her father, and I've never broken that contact. I made her. She's with me now. She's come home to me."



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## Millennium tomes: a reader's guide

AS AD 2000 approaches, there will be a flood of millennium books coming on the market in an attempt to put you from your Diana 25 coins. Well, forewarned is forearmed, they say, so here to put you on your guard is an initial selection of the most-to-be-feared millennium books due out in the next year or two...

*Start the Millennium with Melvyn Bragg*

This is the name of the very first programme due to go out on Radio 4 on the first day of the new millennium, and this book encapsulates many of the arguments and questions which will be raised on it, such as: Are we genetically programmed to welcome artificial dates like

The book is already written, the photos are taken, and all that remains is for Michael to agree to do the trip again, although if you question the BBC Books people hard enough, you will find they think they can do it without him actually being involved, except for the book signings.

*Missing the Millennium by Will Self*

A guide to the best ways of tuning out in 1999 and waking up in 2000, or even AD 2001, having missed the entire celebrations and had a great trip meanwhile.

*A Child of the Century by Nick Hornby*

Nick Hornby's new novel takes as its main character a young man who sees everything that's good in life (Arsenal, Rolling Stones, beer) as belonging to the 20th century and refuses point blank to enter the new, threatening century. He therefore refers to AD 2000 as "Nineteen-ninety-ten" and sees the year as the 101st of the old century.

Then he falls hopelessly in love with lovely young Megan, who is not only hanging up to date in her calendar workings but a Spurs supporter. What will be do? And will he ever get his National Insurance straightened out?

*A Mayor of the Millennium by Jeffrey Archer*

A rip-roaring new novel by master tale-teller Jeffrey Archer tells the story of thrusting Paul Wantage and his quest to become London's first mayor.

Wantage has many enemies, who are all jealous of him, and try to stop him becoming mayor, but, gosh, he is too clever for them, and he does become mayor, which is one in the eye for them, and a jolly good mayor he turns out to be, too.

*A Millennium Cracker by John Julius Norwich*

An anthology of funny or clever things that people have said about the end of centuries. There aren't as many as you might think.

*A Millennium Feng Shui Book by Wu King*

Where would be the best place to be standing when the new century starts? In which room in your house, and facing which way? Would it be so very unlucky to be caught on the loo as midnight strikes? Should you rebuild your house before 1 January 2000, just to be on the safe side? All these questions are raised in this invaluable book, which should be left facing north-east in your bathroom.

*The Millennium That Diana Would Have Wanted by Earl Spencer*

No details of this book are to hand yet, except the price.



**MILES KINGTON**

A selection of the most-to-be-feared books due out in the next year or two

birthdays and millennia? What is the nature of consciousness? Why is Jonathan Miller late for the programme again? And perhaps most important of all, how on earth did they get the book of the programme out before the programme itself? Does time in some strange manner go backwards as well as forwards?

*A Walk in The Last Century by Bill Bryson*

Bryson has undertaken a bold plan, to be the last person alive in the 20th century and to write a humorous best-seller about it. His idea is to book a hotel room on the other side of the International Date Line, in a spot which will still be 1999 while everywhere else is 2000, and walk around a bit and talk to the other people who are still marooned in the 20th century along with him. "It's a slight idea on which to build a book," he admits, "but it's always worked before."

*Around the World in Two Centuries by Michael Palin*

Michael Palin has conceived the bold plan of starting a round-the-world trip in one century and completing it in the next, thus becoming the first person to take 200 years to go round the world. Well, he hasn't conceived it, of course, it's the BBC Book Division who have conceived it.

## THE REVIEW DAY BY DAY

### MONDAY REVIEW

As well as our regular columnists, features and expanded comment pages, Network, our information technology section, moves to Monday

### TUESDAY REVIEW

An improved media section, with appointments, moves to Tuesday. Visual arts and more health pages are also Tuesday regulars

### WEDNESDAY REVIEW

Fashion, midweek money pages, in addition to finance and secretarial sections (previously City+) will stay on Wednesday

### THURSDAY REVIEW

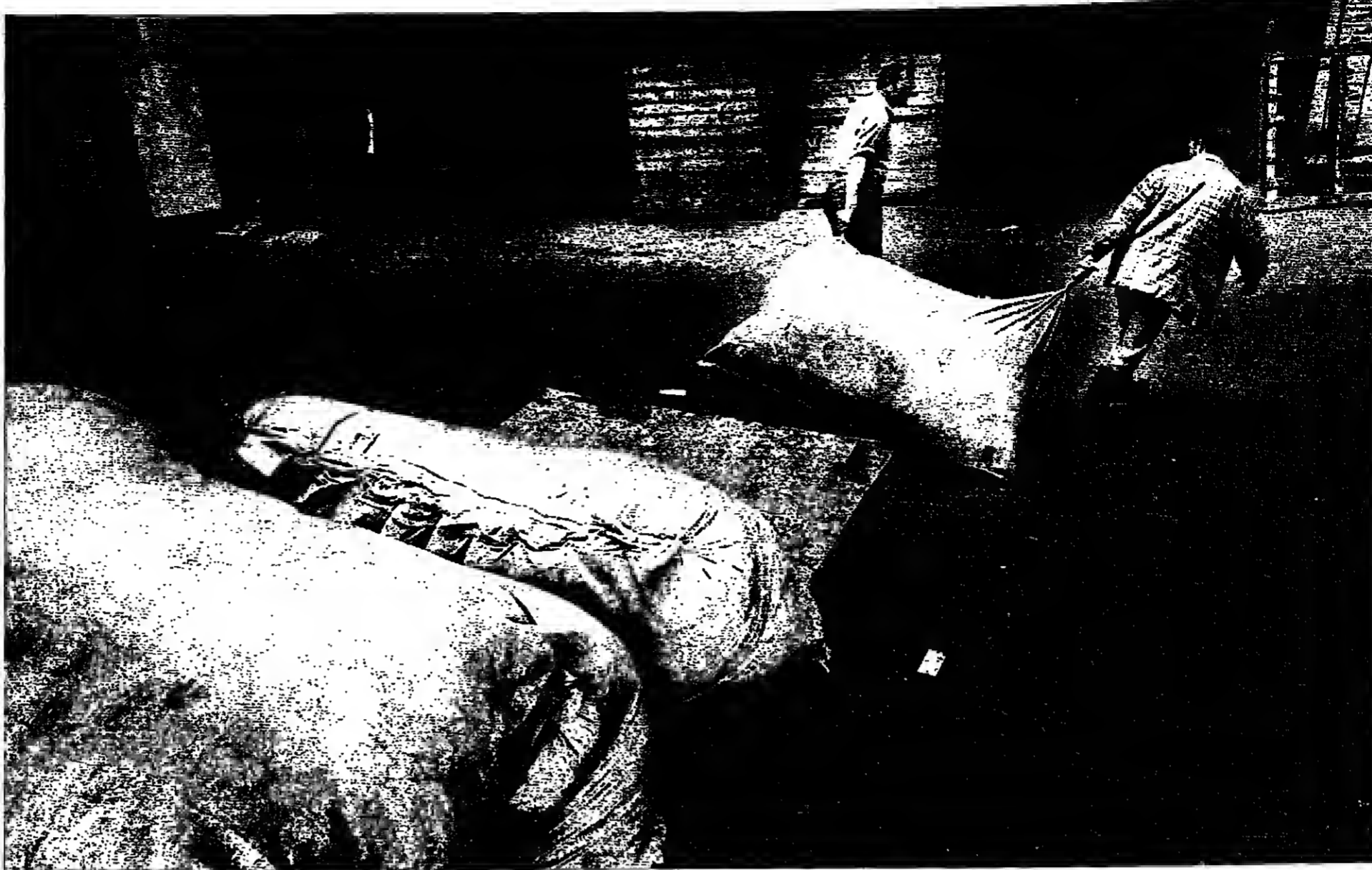
Our education section will appear as a separate tabloid section. Improved and expanded film pages now move to Thursday

### FRIDAY REVIEW

The architecture and science pages now move to Friday. In addition, we will have a new law section and our music pages

## THE INDEPENDENT

Bigger and better



Our series on sheep shearing at Pym Farm in Tovil, Kent, continues with the farm workers, at the end of the day, loading up fleeces for market

Rui Xavier

## LETTERS TO THE EDITOR

Post letters to Letters to the Editor and include a daytime telephone number, fax to 0171 293 2056 or e-mail to letters@independent.co.uk  
E-mail correspondents are asked to give a postal address. Letters may be edited for length and clarity

### In defence of doctors

Sir: Having read the valid concerns expressed about doctors and self-regulation ("Can our doctors be left to look after themselves?", 30 June), in fairness it must be said that 90 per cent of doctors are committed vocational professionals and determined to exercise clinical governance of the highest order. This has not been assisted by the shortfalls in NHS management, the harmful effects of which have impacted upon the entire NHS. All recent major inquiries have identified a background of poor management.

It is ironic that NHS managers who control the entire NHS resource, are subjected to less rigorous scrutiny, selection procedures and training than the professional groups they purport to manage. Doctors are under the microscope - why not managers? NHS management structures need to be as open, honest and clearly accountable as that which is quite properly required of the clinical work force.

Dr GRAINNE EVANS  
Clinical Director Children's Services  
Farnham, Kent

Sir: The pot calling the kettle black! Press tells doctors that self-regulation is not good enough! Though you purport to deal with the regulation of the medical profession, much of your argument (leading article, 30 June) is really against professionalism as such.

Of course the Bristol case was a tragedy and the General Medical Council is rightly under scrutiny by the press, but what are the alternatives? There are no very clearly effective models of how to regulate a profession, least of all journalism. Your editorial laments the restriction of medicine to the professional and middle classes but you do not suggest how you could usefully involve all strata of society in genuine participation in the regulatory process.

I am not convinced that the involvement of academics outside medicine - for example lawyers and ethicists - in medical decision-making would be any guarantee of reasonableness, as exemplified by the report last week by the International Forum for Transplant Ethics. They have come up with the repugnant suggestion that as poor people cannot get help any other way, it is acceptable to remove their organs to alleviate their poverty. We should not rush headlong to abandon professional self-regulation until we have something better.

Dr PAUL KELLY  
London E9

**Opera subsidies**

Sir: Your claim (leading article, 1 July) that Covent Garden is "by any standard" lavishly funded ignores the most obvious standard for a European opera house - other European opera houses.

A film can be shown in 100 cinemas in a single evening but the film industry still seems to think that it needs a higher level of subsidy than Covent Garden - and that includes the redevelopment cost.

The Metropolitan Opera in New York is considerably larger than Covent Garden but still needs an effective subsidy (through tax breaks) of over four times Covent Garden's annual subsidy to achieve the astonishing level of perfection identified in your leading article.

If you want opera in the UK that can "reach heights nothing else matches" with seat prices that everyone can afford, the Treasury will have to pay for it - one way or another.

BARRY WHITLEY  
London SE9

Sir: I read Andreas Whittam Smith's article on the Royal Opera House (Comment, 30 June) with mounting disbelief and unease. It drew sharp attention to the inordinate amount of money consumed by the maw of the capital at the expense of the regions.

Five building projects are costing £967m. Add to this the cost of the Millennium Dome, something of supreme uninterest to the vast majority of the population, then add to this the cost of the new Tube link to allow Londoners to move around their city a little more easily and the figure must total over £2bn.

A capital city is always going to cost more - but London is not the centre of the known universe. Why does the Tate Gallery in Liverpool seem to carry only the crumbs that fall from the table of its London sibling? Why is regional theatre deep in the worst crisis it has ever known? Why does the National Gallery not have many more satellite galleries?

The Royal Opera probably missed one of the finest opportunities offered to it by its temporary closure. Instead of staying in London, it should either have toured for a year, or taken lengthy residencies at some of our finest regional theatres, since after all, we pay for it just as much as Londoners. Some way must be found to bring the resources of our "national" cultural resources to the taxpayers of the rest of the country.

There is a great deal of the nation outside the capital that would very much like to have decent access to our national cultural heritage.

NICHOLAS FRY  
Chester

### London publishers

Sir: Peter Lewis (letters, 27 June), there are a number of "independent publishers dedicated to serious literature" in London, as well as outside it, from Anvil, Agenda and Arcadia to Writers' Forum and Zed Books.

My own New Departures publications, which first introduced Burroughs, John Cage, Ornette Coleman, Moondog, Zephaniah and many others to Britain, will be 40 next year, and is battling as hard as ever for writers and artists of all kinds and ages, despite having received only twice a small grant from the Arts Council. Some are born independent, more have it forced on them.

MICHAEL HOROVITZ  
New Departures/Poetry Olympics  
London W11

**Waste markets**

Sir: I was delighted to see you covering the issue of waste markets and kerbside recycling ("Kerbside recycling hit by fall in prices for waste", 26 June).

However, the situation is actually worse than you report, as most authorities have to pay £20-£30 per tonne to have their mixed waste paper taken away and do not receive revenues of £5 per tonne, which is only obtainable for high-grade segregated office papers.

UK strategy is dependent on market forces without the markets existing. Therefore, the two legislative instruments designed to boost recovery (the landfill tax and the packaging regulations) are creating excess supply of materials and forcing the price paid to local authorities down, discouraging collection.

You cite the success of the Newspaper Publishers' Association in exceeding the voluntary target of 40 per cent recycled paper. However, what is really needed is universal targets for each individual producer, rather than industry-wide targets, to encourage more localised waste markets and thus nationwide recovery. No matter how many applications are found for low-grade

elements. However, they also have liberal and progressive elements who do not seek to define God and who seek to learn and to adjust according to new knowledge and experience. Atheists have much in common with fundamentalists, both pretending they have knowledge that they do not.

ALISTER MCCLURE  
London SE8

Sir: Dr Laurie Buxton has a narrow European view of religion. He is wrong to suggest that all religions describe their gods in detail and assume that we on earth matter especially. The nature of a universal god is considered by Buddhists to be beyond the comprehension of the enlightened, "an unborn, an unoriginated, an unmade, an uncomprehended". Buddhists have always sought to generate compassion for all sentient beings, in our universe and beyond.

NOEL THOMAS  
Bridgend, Glamorgan

**Coarse Britannia?**

Sir: When Michael Elliott bemoans "the cultural coarseness of Britain" and warns of the fate awaiting "the whole nation" ("Welcome to Coarse Britannia", 1 July), does he know what nation he is talking about? Despite his repeated references to "Britain", all his examples of "cultural coarseness" are English, and most are from London. It really won't do to imply that it was "British" football supporters who disgraced themselves recently in France, when the French themselves (and *The Independent*, to its credit) repeatedly remarked on the contrast between the behaviour of an English minority and that of the often equally drunk but on the whole amiable Scots. This is not to claim moral superiority, simply to observe that England and Britain are not synonymous.

In his absence, Mr Elliott has obviously not noticed that an increasing number of English people see this as an important distinction: witness the growing use of the St George's Cross as a symbol of English nationhood!

ALAN MACCOLL  
St Andrews, Fife

**EMU opportunism**

Sir: There is quite a lot of misinformation in the letters you published on EMU on 30 June.

It is the Government's position, not that of the Conservatives, that is "cynical opportunism". Having made the decision to join, it now awaits the earliest opportunity at which public opinion looks sufficiently favourable for a referendum to be won. This would be just two to three years into the single currency's operation, not long enough to know it will work, and certainly not long enough to achieve convergence. A momentary coincidence on some economic indicators is not convergence, but this is all we are likely to have any time soon. As to the point of letting others take the risks, no one is forcing these countries to go ahead with the single currency experiment, which is - let us remember - a hugely risky venture.

As to Gregory Williams's stout rejection of the possibility of tax harmonisation - this is already happening. VAT rates are already subject to European law, and supposed to be brought into line by 2005 under a directive already in force. There are reams of EU papers referring to the distorting effect of

different tax regimes in different countries. The EU regards different tax rates as "harmful competition". And such an illustrious figure as the president of the Bundesbank has said: "It is an illusion to think that states can hold on to their autonomy over taxation policies."

AUSTIN SPREADBURY  
Enfield, Middlesex

**Defining disability**

Sir: Lord Rix's criticism of *The Independent's* headline writers (letter, 29 June) is ironic in that his own language would not be considered politically correct by some disabled people.

The Social Model of Disability (as endorsed by many local authorities) is based on the premise that disability is not caused by an individual's impairment but by society's failure to meet the needs associated with that impairment. Therefore a person who has an impairment - whether it be physical, mental or learning-related - may or may not consider themselves disabled.

Whilst Lord Rix is entirely right to reiterate the distinction between people who are mentally ill and those who have learning difficulties, many organisations would now consider the term "people with learning disabilities" to be inappropriate.

BOB PHILLIPS  
Bristol

### IN BRIEF

Sir: The transcript of the cross-examination of the five men suspected of killing Stephen Lawrence is utterly damning. Reports of the behaviour of the men and their families likewise.

One wonders, therefore, why Kathy Marks ("We didn't do it, Lawrence gang say", 1 July) felt it necessary to describe the mothers of two of the men in terms belittling their physical appearance. There are many women whose faces bear testimony to a hard life. Some of them leech their hair. Not all of them raise their children to be racists.

FIONA FRASER  
London, N15

Sir: Regarding "the country's unhappiest young man" David Beckham ("The World Cup? Forget it...", 2 July), may I, on behalf of friends whose father/grandfather died on Tuesday evening, beg to differ: It was and is only a game and I'm disappointed *The Independent* should be so sensationalist.

GUY CARMICHAEL  
The Hague, The Netherlands

Sir: I was intrigued to learn that swimming lessons are to remain compulsory in primary schools on the basis that more children will drown otherwise (report, 29 June). Given the large number of accidents and incidents on our hills and mountains, is there not a similar argument for all children to be taught navigation, climbing and mountaineering?

CHRIS JOHNSON  
North Shields, Tyne and Wear



## PANDORA

JUST LIKE the explosive wars in the Balkans and the Middle East, the battle between Downing Street's Alastair Campbell and the BBC's Jeremy Paxman is now spilling into neighbouring territory. At yesterday's morning briefing in the basement of 10 Downing St, someone mentioned that Paxman, in yesterday's *Evening Standard*, claimed his programme *Newsnight* was seen by eight million viewers a week. This drew Eleanor Goodman, Channel 4's political editor, to exclaim: "You mean eight million a year." If hostilities continue to spread like this, we shall have to ask the UN to intervene.

THE HIGH Court yesterday dismissed the appeal for a retrial by journalist Martin Gregory and his publishers Little Brown in the libel case brought against them by PR consultant Brian Bashem back in November. Gregory's book *Dirty Tricks*, about the British Airways-Virgin controversy was judged to have libelled Bashem after a heated trial. This was often attended by Richard Branson's parents and, at least once, by the Virgin boss himself, who was not a litigant. But Bashem had prepared a critical corporate report on Branson for his former client, British Airways, and had shown it to some financial journalists, which greatly angered Branson.

ANDREW Lloyd Webber's newly revived musical *Whistle Down the Wind* (see today's Arts pages for the *Independent* critic's view) received wonderful reviews in yesterday's *Times*, *Telegraph* and *Daily Mail*. Pandora enjoyed these even more because of what they did not say. *Times* critic Benedict Nightingale does not mention that his son, Christopher, is the show's musical director. At the *Daily Mail*, Michael Coveney modestly chose not to mention that his expertise on Lloyd Webber includes currently writing the Great One's biography. Finally, the *Telegraph* saw no point in referring to the fact that Lloyd Webber reviews restaurants for its Sunday newspaper. Can't wait to see the show.

APPARENTLY The Sun's mini bowler hat, so popular with English football hooligans during the early stages of the World Cup, was confronted by a new fashion rival in St Etienne. Burly lads with

shaven heads were spotted wearing a T-shirt emblazoned with the words, "Al Clark - Diamond Geezer". It was Alan Clark, Tory MP for Kensington & Chelsea, of course, who issued a stirring defence of England supporters in June.

THE RECENT departure of so many regular characters on *EastEnders* has presumably cleared the way for exciting new storylines to be developed. One of those who has gone is Paul Moriarty who played George Palmer - the "Flash Harry" of Albert Square. Should not a new local pariah be found? Just up the road in West Ham, Sarah Amin, the former wife of Ugandan ex-dictator Idi Amin (below), has recently been discovered running a small cafe. If reports are true that Sarah still talks to Idi, who is in exile in Paris, couldn't she persuade the heady man to cross the Channel and come down to the Queen Vic - at least for an episode or two?

ON WEDNESDAY, The Mirror graciously gave readers of its late London edition the phone number of the Argentine Embassy. They were urged to call to say "well done" as a remedy for English post-defeat depression. Bibiana Jones, their press officer, said about 30 calls were received. Some rang with congratulations and, she said tactfully, "some with other messages".

THE IDIOTIC fashion for carrying your belongings in a hideous rucksack has made life hell on London's overcrowded public transport. With the designer lumps on their backs, ill-mannered rucksack wearers blithely smash into other passengers.

What is London Transport's policy? Their spokesman told Pandora that, as yet, there were no written regulations about rucksacks but "generally passengers do behave in a reasonable way". Shouldn't LT give notice that passengers are expected to remove their rucksacks on the trains? "You would be phoning up to ask why we had spent the money on it," was the cynical reply. This is not good enough. Pandora's campaign against rucksack wearers begins now.

## We must intervene in Kosovo now



PADDY ASHDOWN

The explosive situation in the Balkans allows the West no time for Dayton-style arbitration

KOSOVO IS in a precarious state, with the imminent danger of a full-blown war of independence pressing down on us. Once again, as in the build-up to the Bosnian conflict, the international community hovers on the sidelines, shifting from foot to foot, and wondering if, when and how to intervene in the skirmish.

But unlike Bosnia, there is no time for a Dayton-style solution. We cannot provide a forum and wait for the protagonists to come up with their own plans. We need to propose a solution and put it on the table, and we need to do that now.

Kosovo should have autonomy within the Federal Republic of Yugoslavia, broadly along the lines enjoyed by Montenegro, and there should be no changing of the borders. Many of the Kosovar separatists I met last week could be persuaded to such a plan, once there was an understanding that the international community would negotiate, guarantee and police it in return for agreements such as a guarantee of minority rights for the Serbs within Kosovo.

From my talks with the Albanian and Macedonian governments, I

believe that they would be ready and willing to support such a plan.

With a proposal in place, and a clear stated willingness from the international community to take responsibility for its enforcement, we would have more authority in giving a clear and unambiguous message to both sides - Milosevic's army and the guerrilla KLA - that there is no military solution to this crisis, only

a political one. It would give us a context in which to take any military action necessary to persuade Slobodan Milosevic that we will not allow Serbia to win a military victory through excessive use of force.

Moving from an armed struggle to a diplomatic negotiation means using every available effort to get the KLA under political control. Many believe that the KLA is little more than a loose village-based organisation for ethnic Albanian self-defence. I am not so sure. But this loose organisation will soon - probably very soon - either reveal or create a central control and command structure.

As Robert Fisk has argued in these pages, the international community may have to be more realistic in talking to and dealing with the KLA. But we must balance this with a determination to guide the KLA towards a moderate political leadership.

The Albanian government is ready and willing to help persuade the KLA to take on a responsible political role. The youthful, impressive Macedonian Premier Branka Crvenkovski is eager to get this effort underway, and eager to see the West take a more robust and active role

with his support. We should be taking advantage of this helpfulness and paying closer attention to the concerns of these two governments.

In a fluid situation, we need to reinforce the only fixed points - in this case the borders. That way, even if our efforts to prevent the KLA snatching full independence for the Kosovo province fail, at least it will make the situation easier to contain, both for ourselves and for Albania and Macedonia.

And if the Serbs start to attack ethnic Albanian villages on the Macedonian border, which the EU monitors tell me they are certainly planning to do, then Macedonia will soon have a refugee influx to cope with and an upsurge of Albanian nationalism along the border too. This is the real danger - that Macedonia becomes the detonator for a full-scale Balkan explosion - and this is what we must move swiftly to prevent.

If we have to take military action there may not even be time to wait for the UN to get a resolution from the Security Council. Any military action must have a clear aim, tied into the diplomatic campaign as part of a seamless strategy and as an ul-

timate sanction. The aim must be to persuade Milosevic to abandon his heavy weapon attacks on civilians in Kosovo, as it is this which threatens the spread of the conflict, and also clearly contravenes international human rights law.

We should be issuing an ultimatum, demanding that the Serbian army tanks, mortars and aircraft are back in barracks by a certain date. If Milosevic will not take his heavy weapons off the field, then we will have to do it for him. There is no real possibility of ground troops in Kosovo, unless it is to police an already established settlement, because of the lack of communications there and the logistics of the province. So we would have to use air strikes, probably using attack helicopters, with Albanian co-operation.

This sort of air strike proved to be extremely effective in Bosnia, and Milosevic will not be keen to suffer again the serious damage inflicted on him at that time.

The violence in Kosovo is escalating daily and if we wait too long we will be watching a regional conflagration this time next month, or even this time next week.

## Diana, David Beckham and a nation in emotional turmoil



SUZANNE MOORE

The more uninhibited we become, the more we must be clear about just what we are expressing

IT IS not the boy Beckham's fault that we lost. It is mine. I will it. As an ex-boyfriend of mine slurred at me, at one in the morning, "I hope you're happy now." I am not that happy. My teenage daughter is not speaking to me because I was not supporting England. Still, that is not so bad. My friend's husband has moved into the spare bedroom, refusing to sleep with her because while he sobbed at the result, she laughed.

It is blasphemy, of course, to be unmoved by England's defeat, rewritten - as all our defeats seem to be - as a kind of winning. Yet to stand back from mass emotion is not so rare these days, for as we have seen over the last year we are an increasingly emotional people. There were those who stood back from mourning Diana, Princess of Wales, complaining that the country went barmy for a week over a silly, over-privileged woman. Some, too, stood back from the homecoming of Deborah Parry and Lucille McLachlan, and then of Louise Woodward.

While I still think that the mourning for Diana was immensely significant and far from hysterical, I feel sick in my stomach every time I see a St George's flag, and I cannot share in the petty nationalism that a few football matches have provoked. It would be easy to categorise the outpouring of emotion at Diana's death as somehow "female" and the lagged-up discharge surrounding the World Cup as inherently male, but that would be simplistic. Many men were profoundly moved by Diana's death; many women were deeply involved in the World Cup. For while there are those who read any expression of feeling as a sign of our decline into a touchy-feely, "feminised" society, we surely must distinguish between the different sentiments on display.

Despite all the cack-handed efforts to "rebrand" Britain by think-tanks and politicians, it is quite clear that Britain has been in the business of rebranding itself for the last few years. Inevitably this process of redefinition has been an organic rather than a top-down process.

A key period was the week following Diana's death. In that week we saw reflected back a people who were not afraid to express their emotions. We did not change overnight; we simply recognised that we had already changed. Was such a gut of feeling American, or Continental, we asked ourselves. No, we realised. It was not foreign; it was in fact British.

Yet a sense of ourselves, a national identity, if you like, cannot rise from the flames in a pure and uncontested way. The thuggish nationalism on show recently has been, in a sense, as sentimentalised as the teddy bears left around Kensington Palace. The juxtaposition of jingoistic headlines with the aggressive faces of the white trash "witnesses" in the Stephen Lawrence case made me

feel very uncomfortable indeed. That is not to say that every football fan is a racist murderer, but that any kind of nationalism predicated on little more than a hatred of "foreigners" must continue to ring alarm bells.

While those who grieved for Diana talked of compassion and the need for a more inclusive society, football fans and commentators alike have gone on about our "bull-dog spirit", expressing little more than nostalgia for British supremacy. If sport has replaced war as our national rallying point, can we be surprised when primitive violence erupts both on the field and off it? Equally, the Althorp shrine, the "museum of tears", may feed into equally atavistic instincts - though it is difficult to see how the canonisation of Diana could result in violence.

However, all this has produced a backlash on our collective unbuttoning. It comes as much from the right as it does from the left. Brian Appleyard in *The Sunday Times* calls Blair "an emotional transvestite" and Fay Weldon calls him "a little girl" because of his caring, sharing image. Both deride a culture in which emotion has become compulsory and masculinity is stigmatised as inadequate.

Anthony O'Hear, for the blue corner, lashed out at the sentimentality of post-Diana Britain. John Pilger, for the red, in *The New Statesman* talks of female journalists as Stepford Wives, for celebrating the life of a rich, idle, spoilt and self-obsessed young woman, and lectures us on what "real feminism" is, because obviously he knows better than we do. In *Living Marxism* Frank Furedi talks sinisterly of the "anti-masculine project" that mistakes emotional literacy as the preserve of women. He talks of the value of



Crowds flock to the temple dedicated to Diana in Althorp

self-control and rationality, and the dangers of creating a nation of navel-gazers.

It always amazes me how easily undermined some men feel at the merest suggestion that some of their ways of behaving may not be absolutely brilliant.

Classifying emotion as implicitly feminine is, in itself, problematic. No one is suggesting that women have more feelings than men, just that culturally it may be easier for some women to talk about them. Civilisation depends on striking a fine balance between expression and repression. The socialisation of children depends precisely on stopping them expressing every feeling. If it did not, we would go around hitting each other when we did not get our own way.

Undoubtedly there can be a value in the stiff upper lip - in dignity and self-control, in rational argument rather than being swept along on tides of passion. Yet you do not have to endorse every psychoanalytic theory to survey the damage done to individuals and societies

by repressing certain feelings. At the top of the tree, for instance, we have the most miserable and dysfunctional family possible, because the Royals, while pretending to be in control of their emotions, have completely lost touch with each other and therefore with the public, too.

To divide the world into the emotional vs the rational, the feminine vs the masculine, is a nonsense. We are all a mixture of these things. Only critics of the feminisation of society imagine that anyone else thinks all expressions of emotion are admirable in themselves.

Whatever new identity is being forged for Britain, it is clear that the more uninhibited we become about self-expression, the more we need to be clear about just what it is we are expressing. At the moment, if we share the emotions that are being expressed, we talk of "the people" and if we don't we talk of mob rule and emotional correctness. A true sign of emotional literacy might be to recognise that Britishness has always consisted of both the "mob" and the "people".

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## A Christian duty to relieve debt

A LONG time ago, my mum told me never to speak to anyone until I was spoken to, so it is only after six months of listening and watching, sometimes patiently and sometimes rather impatiently, that I now close my ears, shut my eyes and give voice.

The subject we are considering tonight is not debt while others dine, but the unrepayable debts of the poorest countries of the world - unrepayable simply because of their huge scale in relation to the resources of the debtors, although not so large in relation to the resources of their creditors.

The magnitude of the problem is illustrated by the fact that between 1990 and 1993, the countries of sub-Saharan Africa transferred \$13.4bn annually to their external creditors, considerably more than their combined spending on health and education. That annual figure was prevented from being higher only because much of these debts had been rescheduled, thereby increasing the long-term burden on people who remain extremely unlikely to be able to pay in future more than

they can pay at present. Today, Africa owes the richest countries more than three times the figure that she initially borrowed. The total indebtedness of the poorer countries of the world is of the order of \$2,000 bn, according to the World Bank's figures.

During this decade, I have seen for myself some of the problems not as a tourist or as a businessman seeking trade but as a Church leader identifying with local Christian communities. I have camped in the bush in Uganda and stayed in townships in Pakistan and in the townships of Namibia. I have experienced a lack of clean water and sanitation and of direct access to health care and education. That is the daily lot of millions of people in the countries about which we are speaking tonight.

I have seen the tremendous progress that is being made but also the devastating effects of continued indebtedness on the poor. When the Secretary of State for International Development visited Manchester last March 11 and many others were greatly encouraged by her strong endorsement of



PODIUM  
CHRISTOPHER MAYFIELD

The Bishop of Manchester's maiden speech in the House of Lords

the Government's white paper "Eliminating World Poverty" whose central objective is the sustainable development of the planet, and most importantly, the single greatest challenge that the world faces: the elimination of poverty. I believe that that objective is still at the top of the Government's agenda. How many countries now face unrepayable debts and are likely to have those debts remitted by the year

2000, the year 2005 and the year 2010?

Can anything be done immediately? I believe that it can. Essentially, the governments of the world's 50 poorest nations need to be accepted as bankrupts and to have their debts written off. The poorer some parts of the world become the greater the instability of the world as a whole - multinational companies who control the terms of world trade are very familiar with that and are anxious about it. In the long term it is impossible to have a stable Europe and an unstable Africa and to have an environmentally safe Europe and an environmentally unsafe Africa.

There must be some conditionality to the relief of unrepayable debts. It is fair to test a country's probity, economic management, social policies and human rights record before relieving debt or increasing aid. But it would be improper to impose on poorer countries the kind of exactitude that we were unable to attain in the early phases of our development that stretches back nearly 2,000 years. I remind the House that it is only this cen-

tury that women were given the vote in England.

The problem has a moral dimension. I am not sure whether I am allowed to mention God in this House. God takes the world seriously. It was out of love for the world that God came among us. He commanded us to love our neighbours as we love ourselves - and we love ourselves quite a lot. We need to do the same for our neighbours and also to love our enemies.

Yesterday I was reminded that Shakespeare put into the mouth of John of Gaunt a description of England as "this sceptered isle... this precious stone set in the silver sea".

I doubt whether the waters around Britain can be described as silver. We are an island but are we "sceptered"? A sceptre is a sign of authority and sovereignty. True, authority comes from the willingness to serve and to offer oneself in generous self-giving above and beyond the call of duty.

Poor countries saddled with unrepayable debts long for those nations that call themselves great to help them find a way out of their bondage.

# Time for some gay abandon



**PHILIP HENSHER**

*It won't be long before we have openly gay bishops, generals, even footballers. Who cares, really?*

Do we still need Gay Pride? So much has changed since the annual summer march and party begun with a few hundred brave souls over a quarter of a century ago, on 1 July, 1972. Every specific measure of equality those heroic radicals hoped to achieve has, surely, been achieved, or cannot be far off.

Last week, it was the House of Commons agreeing to the equal age of consent. The immigration authorities have started to recognise the existence of gay relationships when considering applications for citizenship. Before long, the hated, the unworkable and contemptible Section 28, which made it illegal for local authorities to "promote" homosexuality, will go.

Soon - you never know - employers may be prevented from sacking their employees on the mere grounds of sexual preference; the military's stated opposition to homosexual soldiers will be obliged to go the way of their more muted opposition to black soldiers; and finally a legal form of marriage.

All these things are going to happen, and sooner than you think. What is there left to march for? And the biggest aim of the radicals, who were inspired by the Gay Liberation Stonewall Riot in New York, has also come to pass. They wanted visibility, and here it is. But the idea of showing central London, one day a year, that homosexuality exists, has a curious absurdity: there might be some point to a Gay Pride event in Aberystwyth, or Carlisle, but there are 159 gay bars in London. Most of them are full every night of the year - and not with people, I would guess, making much of a point about their sexuality, or embarrassed or secretive about it. And fewer and fewer people are embarrassed on their behalf.

We walk the streets. We are hairdressers, travel agents, and rock stars; we are also cabinet ministers, commodity brokers and plumbers. Everyone who knows us, even slightly - and some of our best friends may be heterosexual - knows what we are. It won't be long before there are openly gay bishops, generals, and maybe even footballers. Who cares, really?

Of course, there are pockets of resistance to the generally smooth



Revellers at a recent Gay Pride parade. But is there enough common ground among homosexuals to justify such marches any more?

Drew Farrell

process of acceptance. Ungoverned violence against homosexuals happens; verbal abuse and snide comment in the workplace is common; and things are generally more difficult outside London.

It is still surprisingly easy for obscure homophobic clergymen and "public figures" to persuade newspapers to print their bizarre rants, giving queer-bashers a spurious justification. An unheard-of Tory backbencher saw nothing peculiar in remarking, in the debate on the age of consent, that if God had meant men to commit sodomy with each other, their bodies would have been constructed differently. I wonder what physical improvements, exactly, he had in mind. No one would march against these eccentricities, and in 10 years time no one will give a fig for their ludicrous and hate-filled views.

Anyone who thought that Pride had passed its sell-by date would certainly find support in the event's recent history. The disaster which has struck the organisation this year may be readily put down to a decrease in active support, a disinclination to go out and celebrate what is for many people an unremarkable part of their lives. Pride's been growing for years,

and last year the trust that administrators took the decision to expand it further. Radio stations announced the event merely as "Europe's largest free music festival", with a predictable result. 300,000 people turned up, a startling number of which seemed to be straight couples, come to giggle at the drag queens. Pride had become an embarrassment; one club party last year was pointedly called "Gay Shame and Lesbian Weakness", and was packed to the gills.

Last year's fiasco was bad enough, but the plans the new organisers, Pride Events UK, came up with for this year's festival - due to take place tomorrow - were even worse. The festival, it concluded, ought to be slimmed down, and funded by tickets at £5 a go, sold in advance from gay pubs and clubs. The decision to turn the festival into a ticketed event, however, backfired when, two weeks before the day, fewer than a third of the 100,000 tickets had been sold.

Though plenty of noisy complaints were made about the injustice of charging for "the community" for a previously free event, what finally did for it was the simple fact that the Pride Festival hadn't been much fun last year - too

many straight people, too many superannuated disco divas on stage reviving their flagging careers. And many regular Pride attendees couldn't see why it would be any better this time around.

Poor ticket sales couldn't begin to meet the financial demands which the organisers, apparently, hadn't foreseen. The police, noticing that they were no longer supervising a free event, quite properly sent in a bill for £25,000; Lambeth Council's fee for the hire of Clapham Common, £150,000, fell due; it turned out that the health and safety provisions were disastrously inadequate; and the cashflow just dried up.

Not trusting to late ticket sales, the trust postponed the whole festival. All that's taking place this weekend is a semi-organised march, and a few dozen smaller events. Apathy from the punters and amateurism from the organisers, it seems, have triumphed: the journalist Paul Burston summed up the general feeling: "We may be incapable of organising a piss-up in the park."

Perhaps now there doesn't seem a lot of point. There was a great deal of point to Pride in 1972, when the assumptions of shame and vice

were virtually universally held. But now?

If there was ever a gay community, it has become completely fragmented.

Homosexuality, increasingly, is no more an automatic common ground between strangers than heterosexuality. And this is reflected in the way Pride is dividing, spawning cooler, more specialised off-shoots. There are several Gay Prides in the provinces. There is the London festival in August, Summer Rites, universally regarded as a bit more cutting-edge than the main festival. And this year a group are trying to put some politics back into Pride with a free alternative festival in Soho Square.

Pride, itself, looks doomed: it would be a brave man who took on its organisation after this year's debacle, and the possibility that there might not be another festival on the scale of recent years is being widely voiced. Perhaps we just don't care enough any more about our sexual status; perhaps the number of us who consider that homosexuality is not just fundamental to our existence but something which defines us - something we want to march to demonstrate - is on the wane.

And yet I don't think it's time to call it a day. Soon, there might not

be that much left to fight for, or against, but not quite yet. There are still enough people in the world who don't consider homosexuality unremarkable: there are gay men who don't live within a couple of miles of Old Compton Street, there are lesbians who have never even met another lesbian. And there are those others who have no intention of dropping the subject: Anne Atkins and her dreary, churchy crew, going on about sodomy, the yobos lying in wait with baseball bats, the ladies who don't object but don't want their noses rubbed in it.

What's going to keep Pride going is its strange, enchantingly slapdash merriment - I'm going to reclaim a word here - its unexpected gaiety. It's not quite a serious political march, nor quite a jolly neutral festival, but a party, an absurd and harmless riot which continues, if you feel like it, for 24 or even 48 reckless hours.

It's a celebration of the incredible luck of being queer right now. And having the best fun in town, every single night of the year. And not least, it's a chance to gang up on the straights, the irresistible, wonderful opportunity to yell at builders "Oi, darlin', over ere". You should see them blush.

## RIGHT OF REPLY

BRIAN DAVIS



The Chief Executive of the Nationwide answers the charge that mutuals have no future

It is not for me alone to respond to Hamish McRae's comments on Approved Welfare Providers (AWPs). Whether AWP's should be mutual is for the Government. Clearly, financial institutions will need to be involved and Nationwide Building Society is keen to play its part.

I would like to respond to some of the more general points made by Mr McRae about mutual organisations. First, the value of these organisations is not, as he suggests, largely a matter of "nostalgia". No organisation can afford to stand still. The high street is fiercely competitive. Indeed, the "high street" is no longer confined to the physical high street at all - telephone services and the Internet have all expanded notions of access and service. This is not lost on mutual organisations - Nationwide, for example, was the first UK financial organisation to launch an Internet banking service.

On a wider front, as Mr McRae states: "Mutual life assurance groups are still top performers." And looking at the mortgage and savings markets, building societies are increasingly taking more than their normal market share. In 1997, for example, Nationwide took a greater share of net new mortgage lending than the Halifax, Abbey National and Alliance & Leicester banks put together.

The argument that plc's have to be more efficient because they need to satisfy their shareholders is a myth: customer-members are just as demanding. A mutual's resources are used for the benefit of its members and they demand that their organisation is efficient. On a measure such as costs to assets, building societies easily outperform most of the banks.

Mutual organisations are contributing to competition to the overall benefit of all.

## Taking pride in a land fit for queens

A WEEK is an especially long time in gay politics. In the same week the age of consent for gay male sex was lowered to 16, Gay Pride (the annual event which gives new meaning to the words "party politics") was cancelled. The march will go ahead as scheduled in London tomorrow, but the on-again, off-again festival has now been delayed until August.

The *Fride* dispute makes *Queens' Country* a timely addition to the plethora of books on gay culture in the 1990s. Paul Burston's travels around Britain map out the range of gay experiences in this most liberated of decades. Is there such a thing, he wonders, as a "gay community" which unites gay and lesbians? The short answer is, yes and no. His emphasis on the diversity of gay lives in the face of a commercialised gay scene is correct. But what makes Burston such fun to read is his prickliness.

He refuses to avoid confrontation and is often contentious, but always compelling - even at his most bitchy. "Growing up gay in South Wales is like being trapped down an abandoned mineshaft with a chorus of short fat men with hairy backs, pissed on foul-tasting beer and singing rugby songs," he comments. So much for South Wales, but it made me laugh.

The real value of his book lies in the serious questions it asks of gays and lesbians, particularly about politics. Has Gay Pride, overrun with sponsorship, become a victim of its own success? Does the marketing of gay lifestyle have anything to say about real lives? Has the power of the almighty pink pound led to a dulling sameness in gay culture? Why marry? All of these questions Burston addresses with vigour and sass. While I don't always agree with his conclusions (he's rather hard on cruising, for example), he is always challenging. As one man's take on the contradictions of gay life, *Queens'*



### FRIDAY BOOKS

QUEEN'S COUNTRY  
BY PAUL BURSTON, LITTLE BROWN, £16.99

THE GAY METROPOLIS, 1940-1996  
BY CHARLES KAISER, WEIGENFELD & NICOLSON, £70

*Country* makes for an entertaining and topical read.

According to historian Charles Kaiser, gay and lesbian liberation is perhaps the liberation story of the second half of the 20th century. The speed of this "journey from invisibility to ubiquity, from shame to self-respect" is unparalleled. But, for Kaiser, the story of gay and lesbian liberation is also quintessentially an American one, in which social outcasts resist adversity in order to find acceptance and establish community.

What distinguishes *The Gay Metropolis* from other overviews of gay history is the breadth of Kaiser's decade-by-decade account and his lively use of individual stories.



Leonard Bernstein

Through interviews and letters, Kaiser has amassed a riveting oral history of gay men's experiences (as

he admits, lesbianism is not really his focus). From the Second World War, when homosexuality was still mostly unspeakable, to Clinton's America, with a president whose political campaigns quite openly advocated gay rights.

One of the strengths of the book is in seeing how different generations of gay men have understood sexual identity. That homosexuality remained categorised as a mental illness by the American Psychiatric Association until 1973 still seems extraordinary to someone of my generation, a teenager in the 1980s. That gay men and lesbians managed somehow to thrive despite such definitions is even more remarkable.

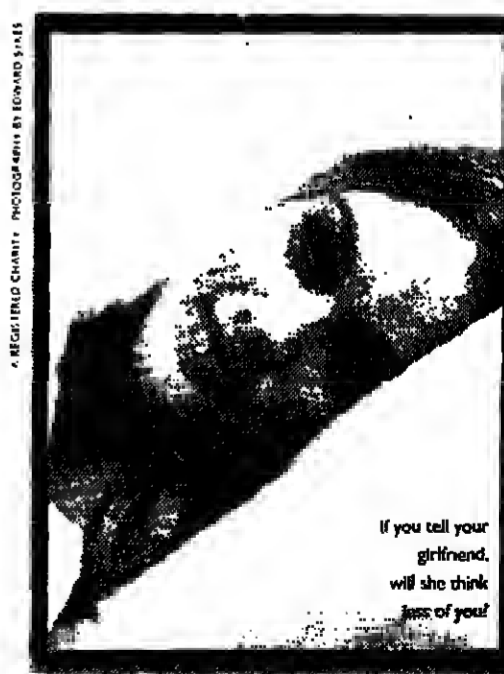
*The Gay Metropolis* assuredly sketches out the social contexts that shaped gay experience but it is the gossip life stories which really captivate the reader. Take Howard Rosenberg. He was an Orthodox Jewish, gay 22-year-old in 1967, who became a bartender at a Manhattan hotspot where he rubbed shoulders with the Liza Minnelli and Diana Vreeland of this world. At the outbreak of the Six Day War, he volunteered as a medical assistant in Israel, where he would later escort the troops back into the Old City of Jerusalem. In the celebrations that followed, he met and had sex with Leonard Bernstein (left), an icon for Israel and his personal hero. The Stonewall riots in Greenwich Village in 1969 were to be gay people what the Six Day War was to Israelis: a moment that bred confidence and euphoria.

Kaiser's *metropolis* is, naturally, the gay mecca that is New York. But it also means something wider like "community", because the thrust of this book is to suggest that the history of gay experience has really been about diverse people coming together. This is why he is able to end on a hopeful note. "Because of the decency of millions of newly sympathetic heterosexuals," he says, "the nation's oldest ideals of tolerance and inclusiveness would finally expand to include what had long been its most hated minority."

In many ways, his optimism is justified. Homosexuality is more visible in popular culture. British cabinet ministers can be openly gay, drug cocktails are reducing viral loads in HIV-positive people. Things certainly seem to be getting better but, in the words of one activist who closes the book: "This is our christening or bar mitzvah. It's not our entry into heaven."

MARK TURNER

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### FRIDAY POEM

SCREEN  
BY YANG MU

First, the wall's particular mood  
maturing behind warp and wool of satin and paper  
like a crop anticipating autumn  
an allusion reaches from the painting on the screen  
transmitted through a teapot  
snagging with a smile  
knocking over landscapes and butterflies

In swift vehicles and sojourns at inns  
Forsaken guilty, packing  
a familiar tune  
Don't know the mood when the sun sets and dew falls  
I paint my eyebrows  
while you head for the wine shop.

# Galina Brezhneva

BREZHNEV'S REIGN began ominously. The criticism of Stalin that had characterised the rule of Brezhnev's predecessor, Khrushchev, was quickly silenced and with this act the era of dissidence was launched. Underground publication of forbidden writings, or their smuggling abroad (samizdat and tamizdat, respectively), prison, exile and deportation to the West for recalcitrant writers constituted the "liberal" treatment of intellectuals who under Stalin would simply have been exterminated.

Behind this facade of phoney ideological vigilance lay another world. Khrushchev had removed the spectre of terror and harsh sanctions for

Among the dramatic personae who benefited most from this situation was Galina, Brezhnev's beloved and hopelessly spoilt first-born child to whom, it seemed, he could deny nothing. A startling portrait of Galina at the age of 68, and shown on Yorkshire TV in 1992, charted her rise and fall from a not unattractive, free and very easy young woman into a coarse, foul-mouthed fright. Throughout the filming she demanded to be kept supplied with champagne – "other wise I can't think" – and, realising that she had been filmed while swigging from a bottle of lemon-flavoured vodka in the back of the car, she used the language of the gutter to curse the cameraman.

She claimed that she had been ostracised by the Brezhnev family for her wild behaviour – a boozier, they called her – and was alone with only her memories and her booze for comfort. Portraits of her once handsome father and some of the lavish gifts he had received from foreign dignitaries adorned her apartment, which was located in the one of the leafier Moscow districts.

With a large, well-built dacha outside the city, and other assets returned to her in 1990, as well as an undisclosed pension, Galina was not quite a symbol of the decline into penury of the Communist nomenklatura. Indeed, many of them are living better now than they could ever have dreamed, even in the paradise of Full Communism.

Galina Leonidovna Brezhneva was born in Sverdlovsk (Yekaterinburg today), where her father had just been appointed Deputy Chairman of the Regional Executive Party Committee. Brezhnev's rise was not "meteoric". He did not achieve a prestigious job in the hierarchy until 1939, when he became Party Secretary of Dnepropetrovsk, a major industrial region in Ukraine, where he later made big strides in his post-war career. Galina studied literature at the local Teachers' Training Institute and then at Kishinev University, when her father became First Secretary in Moldavia in 1950.

Star-struck from an early age and a passionate devotee of the circus, in Kishinev at the age of 21 she met

and married Yevgeny Milaev, a circus acrobat and strongman who was twice her age. She always wanted to become an actress or something in the circus, but Milaev would not allow it. But through her he became head of the Moscow Circus, and she apparently did occasionally work as a make-up artist when the circus travelled abroad. After eight years of marriage she divorced him on the grounds of his adultery, although by all accounts she was just as guilty.

Her father was made a member of the Politburo in 1962 and now stood on the pinnacle of Soviet power. In the same year, at the age of 33, Galina eloped to Sochi on the Black Sea with her second husband, Igor Kio, the 18-year-old son of the head of the Kio circus family. Brezhnev was furious at this show of indiscretion, independence and blatant bad judgement, but Galina claimed she didn't care what he thought. The marriage was ended after one week, when local militia officers were ordered to "annul" the marriage by removing the relevant page from the couple's identity papers. Galina was told to leave the world of the circus and do something serious, like working in the Ministry of Foreign Affairs.

She had never joined the Party and regarded politics as a waste of time which would be better spent in the pursuit of love and pleasure. The theatre and the world of the arts now beckoned, and for Galina Moscow definitely meant the Swinging Sixties. Among the "lurves" she found many a young lover, but fell especially heavily for the Bolshoi ballet dancer Marius-Rudolf Liepa and was heartbroken when he dumped her.

Husband Number Three was a handsome, well-groomed lieutenant-colonel in the militia. She was 42 and Yuri Churbanov was a married man of 33 with two children. She was at the height of popularity within the narrow world of actors, artists, highly polished criminals and black marketers, and an officer of the militia would not have seemed the most appropriate choice of spouse. But Churbanov had his own agenda, and soon his beneficent father-in-law promoted him to the rank of general, covered him with medals and made him First Deputy Minister of the Interior.



Leonid Brezhnev with his daughter Galina at the Kremlin in 1976, celebrating his 70th birthday

Galina soon started a long-term affair with Boris Buryatsa, a gypsy actor of 29 whom she foisted on to the Bolshoi Theatre. Buryatsa turned out to be a diamond dealer – "The Diamond Kid", he was called, because of the large number of gems he wore on his person. A veritable Soviet Gary Glitter.

The corrupt regime, and its now moribund Chairman, Leonid Brezhnev, had become an international embarrassment and a stagnant pool. Andropov, the puritanical head of the KGB whose succession as leader of the Party and state was virtually assured, kept secret dossiers on Galina and her friends, and in 1963 she was jointly accused with

Buryatsa of stealing diamonds from a famous animal trainer. She was left untouched, but he was tried and put away. Also in 1962 her beloved father died and, with Andropov in power, she was cast into oblivion.

In 1983, as Gorbachev's campaign against the old corrupt Brezhnev system gathered pace, Churbanov was arrested, given a show trial on charges of bribery, dealing in foreign cars – Brezhnev had owned 80 luxury automobiles – and a million-dollar scam in which state payments were made for the delivery of non-existent cotton from the mafia-dominated Soviet Republic of Uzbekistan. He was given 12 years in the so-called "cop zone", a

special labour camp for former policemen and top officials in the still-functioning Gulag in the Urals, where he languished until 1993, when Yeltsin ordered his release for no known reason.

In July 1994 Galina, now aged 64, remarried. Her intrepid fourth husband was described as a "small businessman", aged 29. It is not known whether they remained together until she died, reportedly of a stroke.

Harry Shukman

Galina Leonidovna Brezhneva: born Sverdlovsk, Soviet Union 1929; four times married (one daughter); died Moscow 30 June 1998.

## Terence Altham

THE DECLINE of Britain's once-dominant textile industry was felt acutely by Terence Altham since, at one time or another, he had apparently worked for, or met, everyone who was anyone in the world of cotton, nylon and, latterly, wool.

This vast range of contacts and former colleagues became an enormous bank of goodwill on which he was eventually able to draw in valuable measure when he took up the cause of Texprint in 1991. This small design-orientated body had been quietly operating under the auspices of the Design Council for 18 years when Altham was invited to become its chairman, in the wake of various Thatcherite reforms. Texprint, now funded entirely by hard-won industry contributions, has become a highly regarded source of bursaries and has "kick-started" the careers of more than 5,500 of this country's top textile design graduates.

When Altham took over the chair in 1991 of a somewhat motley committee of educationists, designers, journalists and retail buyers, they were immediately awed by his range of contacts and the diplomatic way in which he would win the support of one international "name" after another.

Selecting the best from an annual graduate pass rate of more than 500 individuals was, in itself, a daunting task. But more seriously, the Texprint committee had to ensure that there were sufficient funds to maintain the bursaries, as well as fund the initial exhibition and travel costs for at least 20 people to show their work. The annual display of graduate work was held at the Interstoff fair in Frankfurt and, more recently, the mammoth Première Vision event in Paris.

Altham's career took off during the Second World War, when he became a major in the 2nd/5th Royal Gurkha Rifles, but came down with a bump in 1946 when he became a mill trainee at the Horrocks plant in Lancashire. By the time he left in 1960 he had become general manager of their fashion division. He ran the company's Hanover Square showroom and found himself supplying both the Queen and Princess Margaret with Horrocks's cotton dresses.

In 1960 he moved to Joseph Bancroft and Sons, the American yarn and cotton goods group, as commercial director UK and director Northern Europe. This European experience led him to become European marketing director for the American silver knit manufacturers Borg Textiles from 1970 to 1975 before joining the International Wool Secretariat (IWS) in 1976 as director of womenswear, in charge of co-ordinating world-wide Woolmark marketing strategy.

By 1984 he was thinking of retirement but successive managing directors of the IWS found Altham's experience and contacts too good to lose. Throughout the late Eighties and early Nineties he continued to propagandise for wool as director of international projects.

These activities saw Altham at his most persuasive, bringing in the great and good of international fashion one after the other: Armani, Clara Boni, Paul Costelloe, Romeo Gigli, Donna Karan and renowned international companies such as Escada, MaxMara, Ermengildo Zegna and Missoni.

However many awards he received – he was made a Fellow of the Textile Institute in 1985, awarded the institute's medal for distinguished service to the industry in 1988 and elected a senior fellow of the RCA in 1990 – Texprint will be his testimonial through the success of scores of British graduates now working all over the world for leading designers, textile companies and retailers. Terence Altham achieved as much for Britain's continued reputation for design as any one individual could do.

David Harvey

Terence Blair Altham, textile promoter: born 22 January 1924; chairman, Texprint 1991-98; Fellow, Textile Institute 1985-98; Senior Fellow, Royal College of Art 1990-98; married 1953 Pauline Read (one son); died London 15 June 1998.

## Martin Seymour-Smith

IT IS not always the case that a true poet is recognised for what he is in his own lifetime. Martin Seymour-Smith was known to the general public as a brilliant biographer and controversial critic and compiler of literary reference books. But it is for a pure stream of deeply moving and utterly original poems that this writer is likely to be remembered.

Robert Graves may have seen no less when the 14-year-old Seymour-Smith turned up on his doorstep one weekend during the Second World War, when Graves was living in a village in Devon. "You looked so serious with your little case," Graves told him later. Seymour-Smith had sought out the senior poet because of the way a single Graves poem, "The Legs", had spoken to him. That poem is about the merit of going one's own way, and resisting all pressures to conform. It was something that Seymour-Smith managed to do all his life, despite many vicissitudes.

The early friendship with Graves was not a matter of master and disciple. Graves acknowledges the young Seymour-Smith's help in the introduction to his extraordinary "grammar of poetic myth" *The White Goddess* (1948), and later employed his friend to act as tutor to his children when the family returned to Mallorca. The older poet

Anthony Burgess likened Seymour-Smith to Samuel Johnson, and certainly he resembled Johnson in the breadth of his interests and the passionate audacity of his judgements



treated Seymour-Smith as an equal, his poetic peer, and from the start they shared a passion not just for poetry but for myth and magic and the roots of language. It is possible that Graves learned as much from Seymour-Smith as Seymour-Smith learned from Graves. The figure of the inspired poet-child Taliesin, in *The White Goddess*, has struck more than one observer as owing something to the encounter between

tween Graves and Seymour-Smith at the moment when Graves was beginning work on his study of poetic inspiration.

Seymour-Smith's first books of verse, published in pamphlet form in the Fifties and then collected in two more substantial books, *Ten* with Miss Stockport (1963) and *Reminiscences of Norma* (1971), earned him the attention of other independent poets whose friend-

ship meant much to him: Norman Cameron, James Reeves, David Wright, and later C.H. Sisson. He saw himself (quietly but firmly) as belonging to a tradition of English poetry which reached back through these men to Thomas Hardy and John Clare, and beyond them to Coleridge and Donne.

It was not a tradition in much favour at the time, though Seymour-Smith did find a place in Philip Larkin's *Oxford Book of Twentieth Century English Verse*. The discerning, in short, were aware of this man's presence on the sidelines of a game in which he chose to play no part – the game of poetic fame. He comments wittily on this state of things in his poem "Request on the Field", written in response to James Reeves's urging him to "get on the pitch among the knaves and fools / And play the game according to their rules".

I heeded your wise words, and now am on the field  
With shirt and socks and red-cross shield.  
But before you dribble off, at captain's call,  
Could you explain the absence of a ball?

That lively irony is characteristic of him in a certain mood, but his greatest poetry lies elsewhere, in a handful of poems which pursue and puzzle out the quintessence of sexual despair. Vital amongst these

are the 13 poems which comprise Section III of *Reminiscences of Norma*, giving that book its title, and his poem "The Northern Monster" which concludes:

I had forgotten, in a mortal heat,  
The distance of love's act from its intention;  
That boundless North, which threatens to defeat  
Both love's reality, and its invention...

Such lines suggest Seymour-Smith's affinity with Donne and Henry Vaughan. C.H. Sisson has remarked that Seymour-Smith "is a poet of the kind, and sometimes of the quality, of Henry Vaughan. Yet he seems armed, by his sophistication, to do battle in the larger world of 20th-century illusions".

Those illusions took a battering in Seymour-Smith's 1,200-page *Guide to Modern World Literature* (1973) and in his later *Who's Who in Twentieth Century Literature* (1976), encyclopaedic works of erudition in which hundreds of authors are discussed. Anthony Burgess likened Seymour-Smith to Samuel Johnson because of these books, and certainly he resembled Johnson both in the breadth of his interests and the passionate audacity of his judgements. But there was always a quiet side to his scholarship also, most evident in his fine old-spelling edition of Shakespeare's *Sonnets* (much praised by William Empson)

and in his monumental and authoritative biographies of Robert Graves (1982, revised edition 1995) and Thomas Hardy (1994).

His final collection of poems, *Wilderness: 36 poems 1972-1993* (1994), again bears out Sisson's characterisation of Seymour-Smith's poetry as "the common speech of a highly sophisticated mind". The *Times* said of this book that "anyone who cares for English poetry will want it", pointing out that "Here, plainly, is a poet who writes poems only when he has that to say which can be said no other way".

Martin Seymour-Smith was born in Highgate, London, in 1923, and died suddenly at his home in Bexhill-on-Sea on Wednesday, cared for to the end by his wife Janet de Glanville. He once described himself as "tense, malarial, angry as a bull when roused, stooped, ugly, clownish, bearded, and a compulsive talker who seldom allows anyone else to get a word in". His poems, though, came from compulsions that were not selfish, and they certainly allow readers in.

Robert Nye

Martin Seymour-Smith, poet and writer: born London 24 April 1923; married 1952 Janet de Glanville (two daughters); died Bexhill-on-Sea, East Sussex 1 July 1998.

## Nikhil Chakravartty

DESPITE BEING one of India's best known journalists, renowned for his learned commentaries on social and political affairs, Nikhil Chakravartty liked to be called a reporter. In 1990, he turned down the Padma Bhushan, one of India's highest civilian awards, on the grounds that journalists should not be identified with the establishment, as it clouded their objectivity.

A staunch defender of press freedom, Chakravartty was one of a handful of Indian journalists applauded for doggedly opposing the state of emergency imposed by the Indian prime minister, Indira Gandhi, in 1975, when the press was censored and fundamental rights

suspended. He fearlessly attacked the emergency Raj in *Mainstream*, the weekly magazine he had founded in 1962, oblivious of the censors.

And when the situation became critical, with thousands of Gandhi's critics and opponents behind bars, he closed down his paper at a time when scores of journalists asked to "kneel" by Indira Gandhi opted to "crawl", as that paid rich dividends. Nineteen months later, when the state of emergency was lifted, in 1977, Chakravartty published a damning booklet detailing its horrors – corruption, nepotism, forced sterilisation and ruthless exercise of power – that became household reading almost overnight.

A member of the Communist Party of India for over three decades, Chakravartty constantly attacked India's deteriorating political standards in prominent publications, provoking debate and trying hard to instil a sense of probity into an apathetic public and an increasingly corrupt and unaccountable establishment.

Chakravartty was also perturbed by falling social and political standards in neighbouring Pakistan and Bangladesh, believing that all the South Asian countries shared a common heritage and economic interdependence. Such was his regional standing that he was equally respected in Dhaka, Colombo, Islam-

abad and Kathmandu. Despite frail health, Chakravartty recently led a people's march to Wagah, in the northern Punjab state, the only operative land crossing between India and Pakistan, and held an all-night candlelight "vigil" in a symbolic effort to normalise relations between the two nuclear-capable neighbours who share 51 years of antagonism, including three wars.

Chakravartty was born in 1913 in Silchar, in the north-eastern state of Assam, the son of an upper-middle-class Bengali professor. He was a brilliant student and, after graduating from Presidency College in Calcutta, in the mid-1930s he went to Merton College, Oxford, to study History.

Like many of his peers who later became eminent politicians and civil servants in independent India, Chakravartty was attracted to Marxism's rational and egalitarian approach to society and after marrying in Britain, returned to India in the early 1940s and joined the nascent Leftist movement.

After a brief stint as a history lecturer at Calcutta University, he joined the Communist Party of India in 1943 and began editing its weekly magazine, *People's War*. When the party split 21 years later, Chakravartty opted for the liberal Communist Party of India or CPI rather than the Marxist party or CPM that still looks to Peking for sustenance.

In 1952, when his wife, Renu Roy, was elected to parliament, Chakravartty moved to the capital, Delhi, where he launched the Indian Press Agency in 1957 and his weekly magazine *Mainstream* five years later.

Twenty-one years later Chakravartty left the Communist Party of India but remained a strong advocate of Leftist unity. In 1983 he became the founder and head of Non-Aligned Media or Narmedia, a body opposed to the media monopoly held by cash-rich Western countries, particularly the United States. He was also elected president of the Editor's Guild of India the same year. Last November Chakravartty

was appointed chairman of the Prasar Bharati Board, a corporation set up to bring greater autonomy to the state-owned All India Radio and Doordarshan television, but was unable to complete his assignment.

Nikhil Chakravartty was an intensely serious person whose innate curiosity in things around him was infectious, and influenced and encouraged an entire generation of journalists.

Kuldip Singh

Nikhil Chakravartty, journalist: born Silchar, India 3 November 1913; married Renu Roy (one son); died New Delhi 27 June 1998.

Terence Altham

TERENCE ALTHAM, 70, died of cancer on July 2, 1998. He was a leading figure in the British film industry for over 40 years. He was born in London and studied at the University of Cambridge. He worked for the BBC and then for the film industry. He was a member of the British Film Institute and the Academy of Motion Picture Arts and Sciences. He was married to Jane Altham and has two children. He is survived by his wife and children.

Alioune Blondin Beye



Beye's achievement was to get the two rival groups in Angola to sit down and write a draft agreement

THE DEATH in a plane crash of Alioune Blondin Beye, the African diplomat who was the UN's Special Representative for Angola, has come at a crucial time for the peace deal which Beye did so much to broker and which now seems in danger of collapse.

Beye had been on an official mission to Togo where he was seeking support from the government in the capital Lome to shore up sanctions against UNITA and its leader, Jonas Savimbi, who was failing to honour the peace process. To proceed with this latest round of diplomacy, Beye had cancelled a visit to Vienna where he was expected to attend a commemoration of the 50th anniversary of the Universal Declaration of Human Rights.

Flying from Togo, and some 7km east of Abidjan, the Ivory Coast commercial capital, the small Beechcraft plane, on lease to the UN from a South African company, crashed into a mangrove swamp. All 26 on board, including five members of the UN Observer Mission in Angola (Moua) and two pilots, died instantly. In New York, the security council was finalising the imposition of further sanctions on UNITA and Beye had said that if the increased pressure on Savimbi did not work this time, then he would resign. Beye, the Special Representative for five years, was losing his legendary patience with Savimbi – and so was the government of national unity and reconciliation in Luanda led by president Eduardo dos Santos.

Beye was a former Foreign Minister of Mali, who had occupied a senior position in the African Development Bank in Abidjan. He was a lawyer by training and had lectured on international public law at Dijon University in France. He had been legal counsel to the Mali government. An anti-apartheid militant, in June 1986 he had been elected by the Organisation of African Unity to the 11-member African Commission on Human Rights and Peoples. He was a member of the International Association of Democratic Lawyers.

Beye was appointed Special Representative for Angola in June 1993, replacing the British Under-Secretary-General Margaret Joan Anstee who was retiring from UN service. There was some surprise at Beye's appointment, which was made by his friend, the then Secretary-General, Boutros Boutros-Ghali. Beye was a francophone and spoke fluent French, yet the mission for Angola was English-speaking, and negotiation generally in Portuguese.

By the time Beye was appointed Special Representative, an estimated 450,000 Angolans had died since civil war

broke out on the eve of independence from Portugal in 1975. Throughout the Cold War the US had backed Savimbi against a pro-Moscow government in Luanda. Accords signed in 1991 brought an 18-month peace that led to UN-sponsored elections, but the National Union for the Total Independence of Angola (UNITA) and its leader Savimbi resumed fighting after he lost the race for president.

Beye was optimistic in his first months as Special Representative, but soon he realised that this mission was going to be a long haul. His achievement was to get the two groups to sit down together and write a draft agreement, the Lusaka Protocol. This agreement, signed in 1994, was very much Beye's creation and it provided a guaranteed place for Savimbi in the Angolan administration and integrated armed forces. Beye thought this peace plan was doable but he knew that at its heart was a power struggle for the incredible wealth of Angola. Savimbi would not re-

linquish easily his ambitions and the agreement was a triumph of hope over experience.

Beye had a fervent devotion to his duty, inspired by a belief in the potential of Africa. He knew that with the resolution of the Angolan civil war would come development for the whole region.

Beye was not always popular with his staff. He could be impatient with colleagues and was demanding of their time. He often behaved as a *chef de village*, running the UN mission for Angola in his own way. He called the UN Secretary-General, Kofi Annan, "ce gars" ("the boy"), although there was little difference in their ages. Beye could be ferocious in his criticism but he never bore a grudge. He laboured hard and there were recent fears for his health after he underwent a heart bypass operation in January. There was an increased sense of urgency in his work and a fear that the peace deal would unravel while the wealth of Angola continued to be spent on arms.

The UN lacks an institutional memory and Beye's work, like that of so many other dedicated internationalists, is likely to be unremarked in the future. In Angola today there is the remains of roads and a situation as precarious as it has ever been with the country seemingly set on the path to another hell.

An investigation into the plane crash is being launched. When the news of Beye's death reached UN headquarters in New York, there was immediate speculation that his plane had been sabotaged: to destroy a peace deal, it is often convenient to kill the peacemaker. Angola is one of the greatest human tragedies of our time. It may turn out that Alioune Blondin Beye's determination to end the long suffering of the Angolan people cost him his own life.

Linda Melvern  
Alioune Blondin Beye, lawyer and politician: born 8 January 1939; twice married (two daughters); died near Abidjan, Ivory Coast 26 June 1998.

HISTORICAL NOTES

ANTHONY BIRLEY

An emperor's burning desire for glory



Hadrian: not just the beard was new

"HADRIAN WORKS", says the road sign at Baltwhistle in Northumberland – to direct lorries to a paint factory. "Hadrian" is a favourite trade name in those parts, because of the Wall. It still dominates the skyline. If people knew more about the tortured soul who ordered its building on his flying visit in AD122, they might prefer a different label for their products.

"Changeable, manifold, fickle, cunningly concealing his envious, unhappy and lustful nature, he posed as self-restrained, affable and mild, disguising his burning desire for glory": thus a fourth-century chronicler tried to sum Hadrian up.

As a boy, Hadrian was nicknamed "the little Greek" because of his devotion to Greek studies. Most people would not have known about Hadrian's obsessive philhellenism when he became emperor in 117. Some people may have guessed when they saw the first coin portraits. He sported a beard, the first emperor to do so – but a well-trimmed, classically Athenian beard, not the philosophers' long whiskers. Hadrian may have been an intellectual, expert in architecture, astrology, etymology and other disciplines, but he preferred bunting to philosophy.

Not just the beard was new. So was the policy. Hadrian's first move was to abandon several newly conquered eastern provinces. After three years at Rome to establish his position, he began his first provincial tour: to see everything for himself, "driven by insatiable curiosity" – and what he could not see in person was reported by the secret police. As for the Wall, the Britons had, it is true, caused heavy Roman casualties in an uprising. But Hadrian's answer was overkill on a monumental scale, less to keep out the barbarians, more a statement for internal consumption: no further expansion of the empire. Soon Hadrian began to portray himself as a second Augustus. History was rewritten: Suetonius, Hadrian's Chief Secretary, duly presented the first emperor as an anti-expansionist in his *Lives of the Caesars*.

After 123 Hadrian never returned to the west. He was captivated by the Greeks. He created a new commonwealth for all Greek cities, the *Panhellenion*, centred at the vast temple of Olympian Zeus, which was begun nearly 700 years previously but never completed. He was thus reviving a project

of Pericles, the great Athenian nicknamed "the Olympian". The grateful Greeks now awarded Hadrian this very title. He was in fact becoming a Greek. His literary freedman Phlegon manufactured the story that Hadrian, home of Hadrian's forebears, had been founded by a Greek. There was a more personal aspect. Hadrian had fallen passionately in love with a beautiful boy, Antinous. "Greek love", a bonding between an adult male and an adolescent youth, was an integral part of Hellenism, not merely accepted but rated higher than the marriage bond by classical Greeks. At first, Antinous remained in the background, perhaps as an imperial huntsman. By the time Hadrian visited Egypt in 130 his presence at Hadrian's side was openly flaunted.

On his way to Egypt Hadrian's philhellenism found another expression – to hellenise the Jews, the only people in the east who did not want to become Greeks. He banned circumcision and began to construct a Graeco-Roman city, Aelia Capitolina, above the ruins of Jerusalem. The Jews were outraged. Hadrian was probably at Athens, preparing to inaugurate his Panhellenion, when word came of the great Jewish revolt. It became a war which lasted over three years. By the time it ended, Hadrian had only two and a half years left to live, bitter and brooding in his palace at Tivoli, suspicious of his closest friends and family. At his death he was hastily buried "hated by all" but with the desire for glory still aflame.

Anthony Birley is the author of *Hadrian: the restless emperor* (Routledge, £40)

GAZETTE

BIRTHS, MARRIAGES & DEATHS

BIRTHS

POTHELIANG: To Kate (nee Crown) and Keith, a son, Thomas John Vigness, born on 13 June 1998.

DEATHS

HARDY: Judith, a life-giving service for the life of Judith Hardy has taken place at St James Church, Bramley. Donations in her memory to "Save the Children Fund", "Queen Elizabeth Foundation for Disabled People" or "Action Health", to be sent to Geoffrey Church & Co, 48 Bishopwood Road, Tadley, Hampshire RG26 4HD.

SYNAGOGUE SERVICES

Details of synagogue services to be held tomorrow may be obtained by telephoning the following. Sabbath begins in London at 9.06pm.

United Synagogues: 0181-343 8983.  
Federation of Synagogues: 0181-202 2263.  
Union of Liberal and Progressive Synagogues: 0171-580 1663.  
Reform Synagogues of Great Britain: 0181-349 4751.  
Spanish and Portuguese Jews Congregation: 0171-582 2672.  
New London Synagogue (Masorti): 0171-328 1028.

LECTURES

Tate Gallery: Mary Rose Beaumont, "Lucian Freud in Context", 1pm.

BIRTHDAYS

Miss Evelyn Anthony, writer; 70; Sir Bernard Burrows, former diplomat, 88; Mr Robert Crawford, Director-General, Imperial War Museum, 53; Mr Tom Cruise, actor, 36; Sir William Deakin, former Warden, St Antony's College, Oxford, 85; Mr John Forbes-Meyler, ambassador to Ecuador, 66; Mr David Gando, racehorse trainer, 60; Mr Neil Gerrard MP, 56; The Hon Sir Eustace Gibbs, former Vice-Marshal, the Diplomatic Corps, 69; Sir Richard Hadlee, cricketer, 47; Mr Carlos Kleiber, conductor, 68; Lord Lester of Herne Hill, QC, former chairman, Runnymede Trust, 62; Mr Iain Macdonald-Smith, yachtsman, 53; The Very Rev Dr William McMillan, Chaplain to the Queen in Scotland, 71; Mr Michael Martin MP, 53; Professor Michael Oliver, cardiologist, 73; Miss Susan Penhaligon, actress, 48; Mr Stephen Pound MP, 50; Mr Ken Russell, film director, 71; Baroness Ryder of Warsaw, founder, Sue Ryder Foundation, 75; Mr Geoffrey Sammons, former senior partner, Allen & Overy, 74; Dame Heather Steel, High Court judge, 58; Mr Tom Stoppard, playwright, 61; Sir John Swan, former premier of Bermuda, 63; Sir John Waite, a former Lord Justice of Appeal, 66; Sir John Wills, Lord-Lieutenant of Somerset, 70.

ANNIVERSARIES

Births: Louis XI, King of France, 1433; Robert Adam,

architect and designer, 1728; Leos Janacek, composer, 1854; Sir Apirana Ngata, Maori statesman, 1874; Franz Kafka, poet, 1883; Elizabeth Taylor, novelist, 1912. Deaths: Marie de Medici, Queen of France, 1642; Karl Adolf Heinrich Hess, painter, 1849; Joel Chandler Harris, author and creator of "Uncle Remus", 1908; Rudy Vallee, singer, 1986. On this day: Licinius was defeated by Constantine at the Battle of Adrianople, 323; Idaho became the 43rd of the United States, 1890; John Logie Baird made the first colour television transmission, London, 1928; the LNER steam locomotive *Mallard* achieved a speed record of 126 mph, 1936; food rationing in Britain ended, 1954; France proclaimed the independence of Algeria after a referendum, 1962. Today is the Feast Day of St Anatolius of Constantinople, St Anatolius of Laodicea, St Bernardino Realino, St Heliodorus of Athis, Saints Irenaeus and Muscicola, St Leo II, Pope, St Rumbold or Rombaut and St Thomas the Apostle.

RECEPTIONS

British Academy  
A reception was held yesterday evening by the British Academy, to celebrate the opening of the academy's new premises at 10 Carlton House Terrace, London SW1. The 96th Annual General Meeting was held earlier in the day. Sir Tony Wrigley, President of the Academy, and Lady Wrigley received the guests.

DINNERS

Anglo-Venezuelan Society  
Dr Antonio Casas Gonzales, President of the Central Bank of Venezuela, and Mrs Casas were the guests of honour at a reception and dinner held yesterday evening at the Savoy, London W1, to mark Venezuela's Day of Independence. Mr Roy Chaderton-Matos, Venezuelan Ambassador and President of the Society, with Mr Jack Wigglesworth, Chairman, and Mrs Wigglesworth received the guests. Among those present were:

Mrs Jacqueline Mora de Vayor, Minister Counsellor, Mr and Mrs Hugh Carless, Viscount Montgomery of Alamein, Mr and Mrs John Flynn, Mrs Maria Shami, Mrs and Mr. Wally Al-Kayim, Dr and Mrs Jorge Zamella

BYRON SOCIETY

Lord Byron, President, the Byron Society, presided over a meeting held yesterday at the St Ermin's Hotel, London SW1. Professor Charles Robinson spoke on "Byron and America". Mr Derek Wise, Deputy Chairman, and Mrs Elma Dangerfield, Honorary Director, also spoke.

GARDENERS' COMPANY

A Court Meeting of the Worshipful Company of Gardeners was held yesterday at Carpenters' Hall, London EC2. Mr R.L. Payton was installed as Master, Canon P. Delaney as Upper Warden, and Mr V. Robinson QC as Renter Warden. The Installation Court Dinner followed.

Mr R.P. Franklin was presented with his Past Master's Badge. Mr Payton, Mr G.F. Arthur, Assistant, and Sir Francis McWilliams were the speakers.

BATTLE OF BRITAIN THANKSGIVING SERVICE

The Battle of Britain Service of Thanksgiving and Rededication will be held in Westminster Abbey at 11am on Sunday 20 September 1998.

Applications for tickets, accompanied by a stamped self-addressed envelope, should reach the Ministry of Defence, P1d/Cer/RAF, Room 014, Northumberland House, Northumberland Avenue, London WC2N 5BP, by not later than 7 August 1998. Applications received after this date may prove unsuccessful. If the demand for the tickets proves excessive, it may be necessary to restrict issue to a maximum of two per applicant.

To assist with seating in the Abbey, applicants are requested to state which of the following categories is appropriate: ex-Battle of Britain aircrew: relatives of aircrew who lost their lives in the Battle; past or present members of the Royal Air Force and its Reserve Forces; and members of the general public. Tickets and a note on dress and timings for the occasion will be issued two to three weeks before the service. Applications are not to be made to Westminster Abbey.

Assessment of benefit from drug trafficking

FOR THE purposes of assessing the amount by which a defendant had benefited from drug trafficking, the date when the proceedings had been instituted against him was the date when he was first charged in the proceedings which eventually led to his conviction.

The Court of Appeal reduced the amount of a confiscation order made against Malcolm Gooch in proceedings under the Drug Trafficking Offences Act 1986 following his conviction of one count of being knowingly concerned in the fraudulent evasion of the prohibition on the importation of Class B drugs, namely herbal cannabis.

The appellant had originally been tried, with others, on two counts of conspiracy to import cannabis, but was retried after the jury had acquitted on one count and failed to agree on the other. On the retrial, the Crown indicated that they wished to proceed, not on the conspiracy counts, but on two substantive counts. The defence successfully applied for severance of those two counts, and the Crown elected to proceed on one count only.

The appellant was convicted of that count and in the subsequent confiscation proceedings he was found to have benefited from drug trafficking in the sum of £4,728,208.90. His realisable assets were assessed at £650,000, and a confiscation order was made in that sum. David Lederman QC and Kennedy Talbot (Registrar of Criminal Appeals) for the appellant; David Barnard and Barry Gregory (Solicitor, Customs and Excise) for the Crown.

FRIDAY LAW REPORT  
3 JULY 1998

Regina v Gooch  
Court of Appeal  
(Criminal Division)  
Lord Justice Mantell,  
Mr Justice Mitchell  
and the Recorder of  
Newcastle  
26 June 1998

Lord Justice Mantell said that under section 6 of the Drug Trafficking Offences Act 1986 the court was entitled to make certain assumptions with regard to property which had been in a defendant's possession at any time during the period of six years ending with the date "when the proceedings were instituted against him". Section 38(1) of the 1986 Act provided that proceedings for an offence were instituted in England and Wales when a defendant was summoned, or charged, or the subject of a voluntary bill of indictment. In the present case the appellant had never been charged with the offence of which he was convicted, save in the sense that the count had been added to the indictment under section 2(2) of the Administration of Justice (Miscellaneous Provisions) Act 1933.

It was argued for the appellant that in those circumstances there was no statutory machinery for establishing the date on which those proceedings had been instituted. If, however, one asked when the proceedings which had led

to the defendant's being convicted of a drug trafficking offence had been instituted, there were two possible answers: either when the indictment containing the count of which he was convicted had been preferred; or when he was first charged in the proceedings which had eventually led to his conviction.

Had Parliament intended the former, it would surely have said so, as it could hardly be imagined that section 2 of the Administration of Justice (Miscellaneous Provisions) Act 1933 had been overlooked. Consequently, Parliament must have intended the latter, and the proceedings in the present case had been instituted when the appellant was first charged with conspiracy.

The appellant had also attacked the admissibility of certain foreign evidence obtained pursuant to letters of request. It was not disputed that without the evidence, the "proceeds" figure would have been £3,527,208.90. Each of the letters referred to the substantive count which had not been proceeded with at the retrial.

Section 3(7) of the Criminal Justice (International Co-operation) Act 1990 clearly stated that evidence obtained by virtue of a letter of request should not, without consent, be used for any purpose other than that specified in the letter. Since the count which had been dropped was no longer a live issue at the time of the confiscation proceedings, the evidence should not have been used in those proceedings, and the "proceeds" figure would, accordingly, be reduced.

Kate O'Hanlon, Barrister

Announcements for BIRTHS, MARRIAGES & DEATHS (Births, Adoptions, Marriages, Deaths, Memorial services, Wedding anniversaries, In memoriam notices) are charged at £5.50 a line (VAT extra). OTHER Gazette announcements (notices, functions, Forthcoming marriages, Marriages), which must be submitted in writing, are charged at £10 a line, VAT extra.

ROYAL ENGAGEMENTS

The Queen visits the Thistle Foundation, Craigmillar, Edinburgh, and the Edinburgh Breast Unit, Western General Hospital, Edinburgh. The Duke of Edinburgh vis-

its the Bootle Maritime City Challenge sites, Merseyside. The Prince of Wales attends a service in Westminster Abbey, London SW1, to mark the 50th anniversary of the founding of the National Health Service. The Princess Royal visits Sanguhar, Dumfriesshire, on the 400th

anniversary of the granting of its Royal Charter, visits SmithKline-Beecham, Irvine, Ayrshire, and names the new Atlantic 75 class lifeboat and opens the new bathhouse at Largs Lifeboat Station, Strathclyde. The Duchess of Gloucester, Deputy Colonel-in-Chief, Adjutant General's

Corps, visits the Military Corrective Training Centre, Colchester, Essex.

CHANGING OF THE GUARD  
The Household Cavalry Mounted Regiment mounts the Queen's Life Guard at Horse Guards, 11am.

WORDS  
WILLIAM HARTSTON  
spin-doctoring n.

From those innocently devious beginnings, spin has spun out of control. In the beginning there was spin, then anyone who spun became a spin-doctor,

and anything done by a spin-doctor became spin-doctoring. Spin was only a question of interpretation of events; spin-doctoring included manipulation of the events themselves. And it is growing. On our database there were 115 instances of spin-doctoring in 1996, 154 in 1997. So far in 1998, the score is 133.

# Titanic sequel sinks without a trace

"You've got a nerve," she snapped, "calling me up now." She then said she had "no fucking comment."

Bill, who to my knowledge is only the second *Sun* journalist ever to have been educated at Eton, was disappointed by his encounter. "She didn't sound as posh as I thought she'd sound," he told me.

Let's hope, therefore, that the "stealth paparazzi" catch them both doing something unspeakable in the very near future.

**JOHN IRVING MARKS**, late of High Wycombe, Buckinghamshire, died there on 20th May, 1997 - (Estate about £16,000).

**PARKER.**

**JOAN PARKER, SPINSTER** late of Boxhill, Sussex, died there on 17th September, 1997 - (Estate about £3,000).

**VICKERS,**  
**NEURIDGE,**  
**ELLEN VICKERS,**  
nee **SURBRIDGE**, widow late of Grantham, Lincolnshire, died at Lincoln on 22nd March 1997 (Estate about £11,000).

The widow/widower and kin of the above named, are requested to apply to the Treasury Solicitor (15, Queen Anne's Chambers, 38 Broadway, London SW1H 9JS), failing which the

صَبْرًا مِنَ الْإِجْلِ



Protestant marchers in Antrim. To the loyalists who want to parade down the Garvaghy Road it is all about remembering the past and marking their place in the future

Brian Harris

# The long march

To the Catholics of Portadown, the loyalists' annual march to Drumcree church is a supremacist ritual. But the Orange Order must have their historic parade. If they do not, they betray their forebears and their own identity. By David McKittrick

THE PROBLEM of Northern Ireland is a heady brew of history, geography, religion and nationality, of rival rights and allegiances, of competition for power and territory, of deep bitterness. Drumcree combines all of these in the most difficult way possible.

It is only one road, it is only one march, but it encapsulates all the most difficult elements in the sharpest way. To most outsiders, various compromises suggest themselves: have a parade but make it as quick and as inoffensive as possible; or ban the parade, endure a dignified protest and go off and enjoy the rest of the summer.

Up close it all looks so different. This is the fourth Drumcree, and the first three have had such an impact locally that nothing is simple any more; every detail has become charged with huge political significance, every compromise loaded with connotations of weakness and surrender.

The past three years have been awful for everyone except those who revel in conflict and who see life as an endless struggle against the other side; unfortunately, there are many of these in Portadown. The next few days will provide a key test of whether the new spirit of partnership emerging elsewhere in Northern Ireland can penetrate local layers of intransigence.

To be a Unionist and an Orangeman in Portadown seems to impose a special sense of duty on Protestants. The Orange Order has played an important role in the north of Ireland for two centuries, long pre-dating the state of Northern Ireland.

Often it has been the backbone of Unionism, uniting the various disparate elements of that cause in one instantly recognisable brotherhood. At important moments it has supplied the authorities with the nucleus of the security forces.

Throughout the 20th century nearly all Unionist leaders, up to and including David Trimble, have been Orangemen.

Estate agents say the price of a house is determined by three things: location, location and location. Ask a Portadown Orangeman why getting down the Garvaghy Road is so vital and you will receive three explanations: tradition, tradition and tradition. Failing to maintain the route would clearly amount to letting down all those past generations who managed it.

The Orange Order was born following sectarian clashes in the vicinity of Portadown in 1795, locals taking great pride in the fact that the first district lodge was founded in their town the following year. Armagh is known as the Orange county, Portadown as the Orange citadel.

The first Orange church service at Drumcree was in 1807. Although the general assumption today is that the problems with the march are of recent origin, the history books tell a different story. Orangemen were arrested for taking part in illegal marches in 1833 and 1834, and again in 1866; a Protestant youth was

shot dead by police in 1869; there was serious rioting in 1892.

The splendidly pro-Orange *Portadown Times* gave this description of a clash with Catholics in 1873: "A most wanton and unprovoked attack, dastardly and despicably sneakish, was made upon the Orangemen from the backs and windows of the houses with stones, brick-bats, large pieces of broken crockery, all of which were thrown with a violence and continuity perfectly compatible with the skulking putroonery that dictated such a plan for waylaying a number of peaceable men whose only crime was that they were Protestants and loyal subjects."

The recurring clashes with both police and Catholics have created an Orange mind-set that it is their duty to stand up to what they see as period attempts to rob them of their marching rights. While grassroots Orangemen are aware of this in a general way, local heads of the Order are well aware of the details of the past.

The local bosses lack what might be called the vision thing. Their own histories laud those District Grand Masters who stood firm and got

their marches through. The present DGM, Harold Gracey, has been an uncompromising rock in classic Orange mould, railing against Jesuit priests and promising to camp out at Drumcree "for as long as it takes" to have the march put through. The Jesuits he referred to have a house off the Garvaghy Road, providing an element of guidance for a Catholic community which, like the Protestants, has lacked creative leadership. Catholics have always been a minority in the town, though further south in Armagh county they predominate. In Portadown they regard themselves as very much a victim community, a small put-upon island of green stranded in a sea of Orange.

Many wound up in Garvaghy Road after being intimidated from other parts of the town. They see themselves as an unwilling but essential element in the pageantry of Orangeism, believing that the Order's rites are essentially supremacist and would not be complete without the ritual humiliation of some Catholics.

The lot of Catholics in many parts of Northern Ireland has improved over the years as their numbers

have grown and they have made their way up the social and economic ladder. Nationalists and republicans elsewhere have SDLP and Sinn Féin MPs and a new sense of empowerment. Seamus Mallon, who on Wednesday was elected deputy first minister of Northern Ireland, comes from the south of the county. But much of this has passed Catholic Portadown by: it remains isolated and outnumbered, left to face what it regards as an annual metaphor for triumphalism and lack of equality. On top of this comes its deep dissatisfaction with the police.

Both last year and in 1996 the parade was pushed through by thousands of police officers in anti-riot gear who cleared the Garvaghy Road to let the marchers through. In strict policing terms this made sense, for if the parade is going through it is important to keep the two sides apart. But residents say the road was cleared with much roughness and what looked suspiciously like enthusiasm in the use of batons, and the result was a great increase in nationalist indignation against the police. Then there was a murder last year when

a local Catholic man was killed to death by loyalists; the RUC strenuously denies the allegation that police did not intervene, but the case has burned its way into the local Catholic psyche.

All this may give an impression of the various elements forever enacting the same bitter tableau year after year, without variation, but the fact is that there have been highly significant changes in the character of the dispute. At one time, the marches may have been, as Catholics claim, an annual display of Orange superiority and domination. But recent decades have not been happy times for Unionism, with the steady growth of nationalist power, influence and numbers. In recent years, the parades have taken on a character of Protestant consolation, expressing not jubilation in Unionist ascendancy but a sense that at least one parade can be got through, even if so much else has been lost.

This was best summed up by one of those Garvaghy Jesuits, Father Brian Lennon, when he said: "Protestants have been under pressure since 1968, and they have lost power and status to a far greater extent than many Catholics realise. As a result, they're afraid of their whole identity being abolished completely - because for all that they've lost, they haven't been given any peace or any stability."

The last three Drumcrees can therefore be seen as Orange attempts to draw a line in the sand to prevent what they see as more of their heritage draining away. Blair flew into Belfast yesterday to attempt to convince both the Orange Order and the Garvaghy residents that a compromise of some sort would not permanently damage the rights of either.

It would be tremendously helpful if Portadown Orangemen regarded the Good Friday agreement and the new Trimble-Mallon partnership as useful safeguards of their tradition. But many of them plainly do not, having just elected their County Grand Master to the assembly on an anti-Trimble ticket.

In public, the Orange leaders adopt the rigid position that the march must get down the road come what may, but most of them have their own private fears about what could happen. In 1996, which was the mother of all Drumcrees, the march got through but at a cost of disturbances on a scale so huge that it called into question the very stability of Northern Ireland.

The thought has taken root that 1996 was a Pyrrhic victory, and that all but the real fanatics would be dismayed by a repetition. But although this is a strong factor, it has to date remained secondary to the traditional imperative of marching.

Tony Blair will need all his skill to convince the two sides that both sets of rights are being respected, that compromise is not defeat, and that there exists a middle way which respects the pride and dignity of all.

## BUILD YOUR OWN LIBRARY

4: CLARE LONGRIGG ON PETER BARBER'S WORLD OF MAPS

# There's more to this than geography

PETER BARBER is passionate about maps. As deputy librarian at the British Map Library, he is about to move two and a half million of them to their new premises in St Pancras, and appears unfazed by the task: "We'll be up and running again in four weeks."

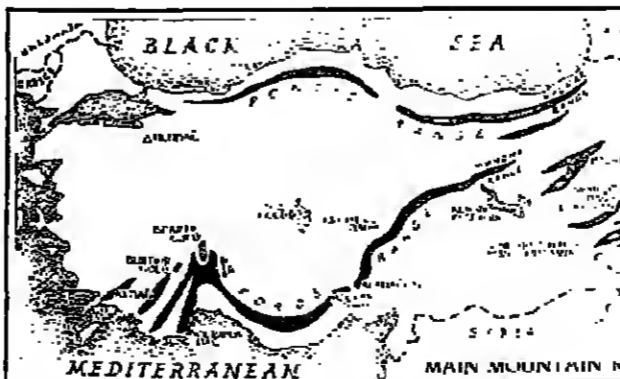
He displays the same poker-player's sang-froid when it comes to recommending the books to read upon his subject. With a smile which asks, "do you really want to play?", he holds out in front of him four kilograms of book. This is Volume 2, Book 2 in the mammoth *History of Cartography* series, which is being published by the University of Chicago Press (edited by JB Harley and D Woodward, £150). "If anything has made cartography into a serious subject, it is this," says Mr Barber. "The fourth volume is about to appear and they haven't even got to 1500 in Europe yet. Before this, you have no idea how the history of maps was looked down on in academic circles as a dilettante subject, easily confused with the history of science, the history of exploration or the history of antiquarianism. This series has marked the coming of age of cartography."

For Mr Barber, this change in perception is vital. Thirty years ago, maps were seen either as the pursuit of collectors who wanted pretty things to hang on their walls, or as the heroic fight of man against his environment. He cites two books as being the best standard works in each tradition.

*The History of Cartography* by Leo Bagrow and RA Skelton (CN Watkin) is essentially the history of maps produced and the people who produced them, written from the librarian's and the collector's point of view. Lloyd Brown's *The Story of Maps* (Dover Publications) is less detailed on the antiquarian aspect, and much more interested in the scientific and technical side: how maps were produced, and what were the improvements in mapping techniques.

Both books are now out of print, but it may be possible to obtain them from Valerie Scott, at Map Collector Publications.

But for Peter Barber, maps are not about geography - "I'd go potty if they were," or about the scientific advance of



mankind. "The most difficult thing is to get people to change the idea that map-making is an objective science, that there is a truth about it. Maps are of primary importance because they visualise the mentalities of past ages. They are all subjective. All maps lie."

He illustrates the point by referring to a map of Pennsylvania, reproduced in *Tales from the Map Room* (BBC publications, edited by himself).

"Here you have a map produced by a Quaker in 1680 for Charles II, but being a Quaker, he omitted all the fortresses,

which is in fact what Charles II wanted."

With each section written by a leading expert, *Tales from the Map Room* covers the aspects of mapping not dealt with by the traditional Bagrow and Lloyd Brown: maps as lies; their use for the political message; their distortion for commercial reasons. The book sold out its first imprint of 10,000 and was on *The Times* best-seller list for eight weeks, but is now, sadly, out of print. Why? "You ask the BBC," replies Peter Barber, with good humour.

Where, then, is the lighter fare for the general reader?

"I would suggest two series of publications which really open the world to a lot of other aspects of mapping," says Mr Barber. "One is a series being

produced by the British Library. They are very good, accessible guides to the history of cartography at the popular, the middle-brow, and the academic level. Any of them, I would recommend. The University of Chicago Press has also produced a whole range of books following certain themes and it's there that you would go if you wanted slightly off-beat things such as a detailed discussion of the history of urban mapping, or art and cartography. They also publish Norman Thrower's *Maps & Civilisation* (220), essentially a rewriting of his *Maps and Man*, first published in 1972. This is a traditional history which acknowledges the new mentality aspects of cartography, and is possibly the best in-print bet for

general use.

"One journal you absolutely have to get, if you want to carry forward your interest, is *Imago Mundi*. It comes out every year, costs £30, and is worth every penny."

"If you just love maps, there's also *Mercator's World*, which is a beginner's journal. It doesn't set out to be academic, it has useful articles and columns, and it is good at popularising academic studies, which I'm all for."

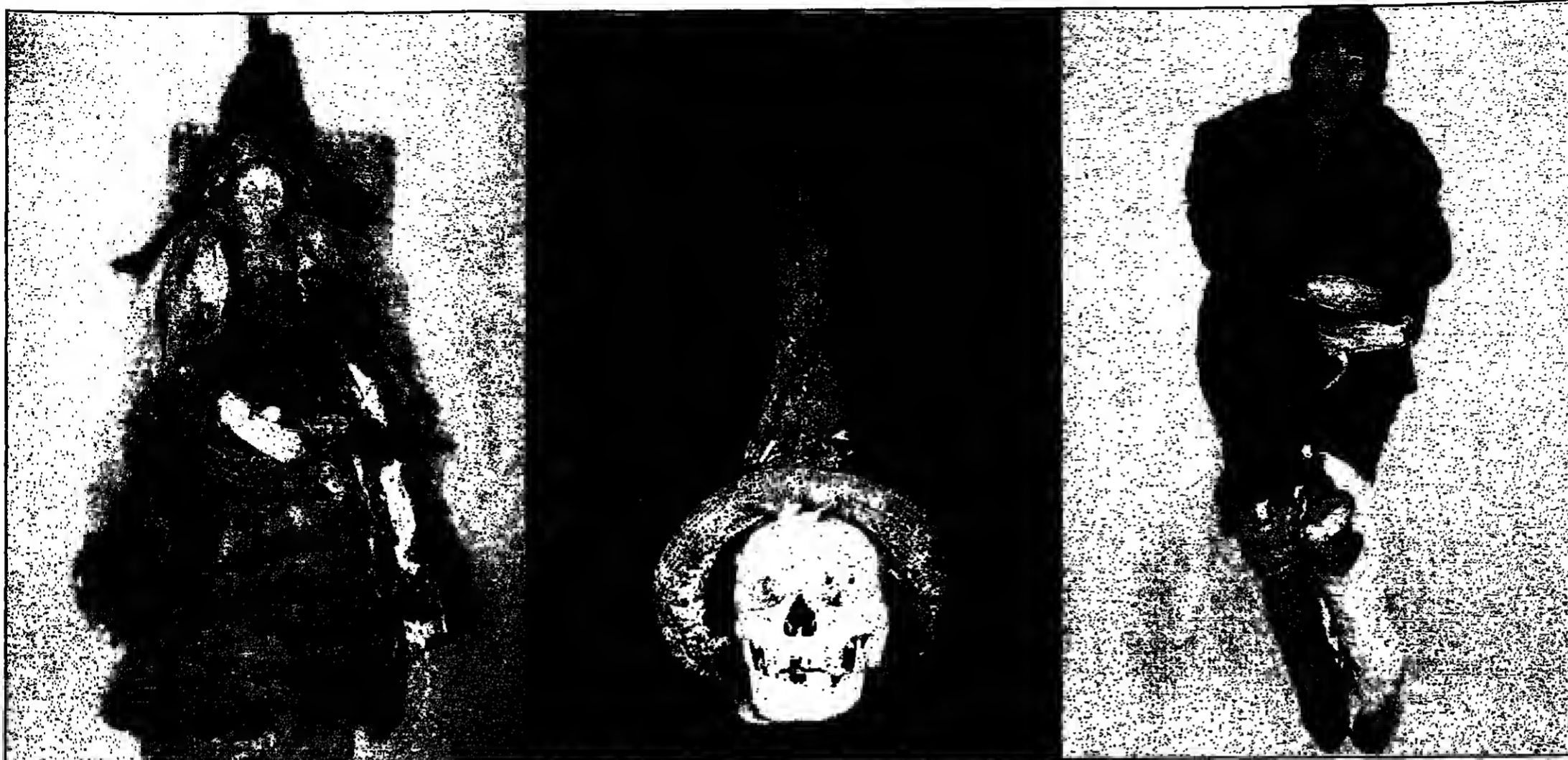
*British Library Bookshop: 96 Euston Road, London NW1 2DB (0171-412 7000).*

*Map Collector Publications: 48 High Street, Tring, Hertfordshire HP23 5BH (01442 824777).*

*Mercator's World, e-mail:*

Did Europeans migrate to China 4,000 years ago? The Tarim Basin mummies suggest they did. By Steve Connor

## Dug from the sands of time



This woman, left, and man, right, are between 2,000 and 4,000 years old. Buried with full funerary ritual, the bodies have been preserved along with perishable belongings like the distinctive "witch's hat", centre

THE MYSTERY of the Tarim Basin mummies is as enigmatic as the stars frozen on their faces. For up to 4,000 years these perfectly preserved corpses have lain in the ground of a remote desert region of northwestern China. Archaeologists were puzzled and amazed when the mummies first emerged for public view a few years ago. They looked European, with their narrow faces and long noses, but nobody had imagined that a "lost tribe" of white people had penetrated so deeply into ancient China.

The mummified faces, so clearly different from the Mongoloid features of the East, challenged the traditional view that Chinese culture had developed in isolation. Could these people who had travelled along the route of the Silk Road nearly 2,000 years before it had officially opened in 130BC really have been Europeans? According to the latest genetic analysis of the mummies it appears they are indeed of European descent. If the preliminary results are correct, historians may have to revise their views on the earliest links between China and the West.

The Taklamakan desert (which literally means "go in and you won't come out") of the Tarim Basin provided the perfect conditions for natural mummification. Apart from in

the immediate vicinity of the region's lush oases, the arid environment and salty ground suspend bacterial decomposition. Even clothes and wooden tools are perfectly preserved, giving a unique insight into a society that would otherwise have been lost in the sands of time.

Chinese archaeologists have so far excavated more than 100 mummies - desiccated corpses, strictly speaking - from the Tarim Basin, in the Xinjiang province of modern China. The bodies were buried either individually or in pairs, sometimes in decorated coffins or hollowed-out logs. The deep graves are often covered with wooden beams and reeds which give some indication of the elaborate funeral rites that must have taken place.

Their clothing has also survived, often with their vivid colours intact. The mummies are dressed in robes, trousers, boots, stockings, coats and hats. One of the head garments, a two-foot high conical structure made of felt, is reminiscent of the witch's hat of European culture and the tall headpieces of Saka nomads of southern Iran.

The culture of the mummy people was relatively sophisticated. Artefacts found in the graves of the Tarim Basin mummies suggest that most of them were agriculturalists,

rather than simply nomadic herders or hunter-gathering communities. They appear to have lived in permanent housing, they used spindle whorls, shells, bone combs, wooden vessels and plates and made their own pottery and textiles.

"This is every anthropologist's dream," says Dr Charlotte Roberts, a lecturer in archaeology at Bradford University, who has studied the find. "But unlike other preserved ancient bodies, the Xinjiang material has not been the subject of analysis by scientists to the same extent."

An Italian geneticist, Paolo Francalacci of the Anthropology Institute at the University of Sassari, nevertheless managed to extract 25 tissue

samples from 11 mummies found in eastern Xinjiang. The preliminary results, from analysis of five samples from two individuals, show that the DNA sequences match sequences of typically European origin.

Further analysis to be published shortly has confirmed that Francalacci has found that the mummies to be more closely related to modern continental Europeans than present-day Chinese. Three years ago Dr Francalacci was reticent about putting too much emphasis on his findings: "The preliminary results are in agreement with a possible European origin... but further research is still needed," he said. But this week his doubts have been dis-

pelled: "We have confirmed they are white Europeans."

A study by Chinese anthropologists, who measured the dimensions of skulls, has also concluded that the inhabitants of the Tarim Basin from 1800 BC to the last few centuries BC were predominantly Caucasian. "What is most surprising is that their appearance is recognisably European, which has challenged the theory that China's advanced civilisation developed largely in isolation," Dr Roberts says. "What is more, the presence of these people at that time in China has become a politically sensitive issue with the indigenous people of Xinjiang today wanting autonomy from the rest of China. The presence of these mummies and other archaeological and historical information support the suggestion that they do indeed possess a different cultural heritage."

There is other evidence to support a European origin of the Tarim Basin mummies. Dr Roberts cites the famous wall paintings of the Kizil caves in the mountains of the Xinjiang. These date from the 2nd century AD - much later than the mummies - but the faces depicted could clearly be their descendants. The Kizil cave paintings have faces with blue and green eyes, narrow

faces and long noses, and red and blond hair and beards.

It is tempting to speculate that the existence of these European-like mummies confirms the presence of a trade route which predates the famous 4,000-mile Silk Road. A strand of silk found in the hair of a 3,000-year-old Egyptian mummy who lived in Thebes in the 21st dynasty appears to confirm that silk - a uniquely Eastern product - was being traded long before the Silk Road opened.

Vincent Pigott, an archaeologist at the University of Pennsylvania, said that the mummies of the Tarim Basin lend support to the idea that western technology flowed east as eastern produce moved west. "Without this discovery we would have been very much in the dark about the potential for the diffusion of knowledge," Professor Pigott said. "Chinese scholars are becoming more open to the idea that knowledge may have been brought to the East along the route of the Silk Road."

Although genetic material is helping to shed light on the Tarim Basin mummies, it is unlikely to answer perhaps the most intriguing conundrum of all: why did they disappear after surviving for so many centuries in such an inhospitable region of the world?



## UPDATE

SCIENTISTS HAVE named a newly discovered fossil of a four-legged animal which lived some 335 million years ago in what is now Scotland after the fictional Creature of the Black Lagoon. The animal, *Eucritta melanolimnetes*, is believed to belong to a shadowy third group of early land vertebrates called the baphetids. It is the first reasonably complete example, which has provided scientists led by Jennifer Clack of Cambridge University with a better insight into the evolution of terrestrial vertebrates.

TWO TEAMS of researchers are predicting a huge rise in sea levels if the West Antarctic Ice Sheet should ever disintegrate. Using airborne measurements, Robin Bell of Columbia University's Lamont-Doherty Earth Observatory in New York showed that the stability of the ice shelf relies on the ice streams which drain to the sea and lubricate the slow moving interior structure. Another team from Pennsylvania State University used seismic data to come to a similar conclusion - disintegration could raise sea levels by six metres.

A FORMER cowboy has invented a horse bridle without a bit. *New Scientist* reports that Allan Buck from Ramona, California, has worked out how to control a horse without interfering with its sensitive mouth. The new bridle passes through rings below the horse's nose so that pulling the reins tightens the bridle. Buck, who has applied for patents, said the bridle might eliminate behavioural problems in horses that become upset with having a bit between their teeth.

Monogamy makes males nicer and females less defensive - at least in fruit flies. William Rice, an evolutionary biologist at the University of Santa Cruz, found that sex in fruit flies is a running battle with males trying to fertilise as many females as possible and females trying to defend the genetic investments in their eggs. When flies were forced to be monogamous, Rice found a significant change in behaviour. Both sexes stopped acting as if they were involved in an arms race and began to cooperate to their mutual advantage. A lesson for humans perhaps.

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## The synthetic solution to a natural enemy

THE TRUTH ABOUT...  
ANTIVIRAL DRUGS

ONE OF the most common sins in science is to confuse bacteria with viruses. Although they both cause infectious diseases - and are both dubbed "bugs" in common parlance - they are in fact quite different forms of life requiring radically different medical treatment.

Bacteria are fully functioning living cells and possess all the paraphernalia of life: they respire, they consume food, they excrete waste products and they reproduce. Viruses merely reproduce by infecting a host cell and hijacking its machinery for genetic replication in order to make more viruses.

Antibiotics, one of the great discoveries of 20th century medicine, only work against bacteria. The complex machinery of micro-organisms makes them vulnerable to attack, which is how antibiotics work. Indeed most antibiotics are produced by bacteria themselves in order to kill off other microbes in the competition for scarce resources.

Viruses are unaffected by antibiotics. This is why it is useless to take penicillin and other antibacterial drugs for influenza or the common cold, which are both viral diseases. Because Mother Nature does not have as many weapons in its arsenal against viruses as it has devised against bacteria, scientists have had to come up with their own antiviral drugs.

The secret of developing a good antiviral is to know your



HIV virus particles surround an infected cell SPL

enemy. Viruses are relatively simple creatures. They possess genetic information either in the form of DNA or its close cousin RNA, and they wrap this in a protective outer coating made of protein.

In order to infect a cell they have to first attach themselves to its cell membrane and then inject their genetic material into the inner cellular cytoplasm. In the case of an RNA virus, it also needs an enzyme

to convert its genetic code to DNA, and uses another enzyme to construct its protein coat.

Scientists who devise ways of attacking viruses try to find the weak links in the chain of infection, replication, viral synthesis and re-infection. Blocking a virus's ability to attach itself to a cell would be the first and best line of attack. Preventing any of the other stages poses greater difficulties because the antiviral drug has to get inside the infected cell to have an effect.

HIV, the AIDS virus, makes the infected cell produce two enzymes. One is called reverse transcriptase, which converts the virus's RNA to a DNA copy. The other is a protease enzyme, which builds up its outer protein coat.

There are three broad classes of antiviral drugs against HIV. The first is AZT which interferes with the synthesis of the viral code by providing dummy building blocks. Reverse transcriptase inhibitors attack the enzyme needed to make DNA from a template of RNA and protease inhibitors block the process of making viral protein. One or other should in theory prevent HIV from replicating.

The reality, as always, is a little more complicated as HIV has proven to possess an ability to mutate into drug-resistant forms. This is one thing viruses and bacteria do share.

STEVE CONNOR

## TECHNOQUEST

**Q How do we know what is inside the Earth?**  
It is not possible to go down far enough to reach the really interesting bits of the underworld because it gets too hot. To understand the centre of the Earth, the core, we have to use shock waves, like those that travel through the Earth after earthquakes. These show the different densities of the rocks below which gives us a clue to what they are.

**Q How do we get rid of our rubbish?**  
Currently about 95 per cent of the Britain's waste is disposed of in landfill sites, the rest is incinerated. The government is setting a target of recycling 20 per cent of domestic waste by the year 2000. However, scientists have discovered that in the United States' landfills even the normally biodegradable material like paper does not really break down. The lack of oxygen has a mummifying effect so that even 20-year-old hot dogs have been found intact.

**Q What are fractals?**  
In mathematics, fractals are a class of complex geometric shapes. They are distinct from the simple figures of classical - or Euclidean - geometry (the square, circle, sphere, and so forth), being capable of describing the many irregularly-shaped objects (such as snowflakes) or spatially non-uniform phenomena in nature that cannot be accommodated by the components of Euclidean geometry. The term, from the Latin word fractus ("fragmented," or "broken"), was coined by the Polish-born mathematician Benoit B Mandelbrot. Since its introduction in 1975, the concept has given rise to a system of geometry that has had a significant impact on mathematics, physical chemistry, physiology, and fluid mechanics.

**Q What causes car sickness?**  
Car movement is noticed by a part of your body called the inner ear. In your inner ear are three curved tubes called semi-circular canals. If you are reading a book or looking at the inside of the car you eyes tell your brain that you are not moving but the little tubes in your ear (the semi-circular canals) tell your brain that you are moving. This confuses the brain and makes you feel sick. If you look out of the window of the car and watch things moving past you will make your eyes realise that you are moving and you won't feel so ill.

Questions for this column may be submitted via e-mail to [sci.net@campus.bt.com](mailto:sci.net@campus.bt.com). You can also visit the Technoquest World Wide Web site at: <http://www.sciencenet.org.uk>. Questions and answers provided by ScienceLine's Dial-A-Scientist on 0345 600444

صكرا من الامل

UPDATE

# Running out of puff

The cast are valiant. The film was a gem. But Lloyd Webber's new show is nothing if not flatulent. By David Benedict

LONG BEFORE news percolated through that Meatloaf songwriter and producer Jim Steinman was to be Andrew Lloyd Webber's latest lyricist, eyebrows were being raised. A musical of Mary Hayley Bell's novel *Whistle Down the Wind* in which children mistake an escaped convict for Jesus? Could it be done? In fact, it already had. Due to his benevolent involvement with the National Youth Music Theatre, Lloyd Webber had seen Richard Taylor's successful musical version of the same material. Not long afterwards, his own production was set in motion.

The most radical change is the switch of location. Unusually, Lloyd Webber premiered it in Washington. It flopped, although there it may have seemed right that the tale of innocent Yorkshire lads and lasses had been translated to a group of hard-working, God-fearing folk in a small Louisiana town in 1959. It certainly allows the religious theme to come across strongly, but in London the change begs more questions than it answers, particularly when the sense of period is as synthetic as the Fifties-style Levi's commercials.

The genius of the film was its touching unforced simplicity. The young Hayley Mills played the central character, Swallow, who befriends murderous runaway Alan Bates in a barn one chilly Christmas. In this post-Washington rewrite, the excellent Lottie Maynor slips away into the barn for some peace. Suddenly she's confronted by a wounded man with long dark hair who's so shocked, he utters the fateful words, "Jesus Christ!" and Swallow's fantasies are set in motion. The story then proceeds to be a test of the children's faith as they cleave to their belief in the face of a hard adult world.

The major problem is the show's failure of tone. It cannot decide what it is or who it's aimed at. Per-

haps the idea was to go for every possible sector of the audience. One minute it sounds like a reworking of Steinman's "Total Eclipse of the Heart", the next it's a jaunty number for the hard-working bunch of scrappy kids more akin to *Joseph and His Amazing Technicolour Dreamcoat*, his earliest score, written for schoolchildren. Then you get the operatic motifs - the threat of danger is represented with wailing bass guitar - and he even writes fierce crowd numbers when they're bloodthirstily searching for the devil at loose in their society. Sad to say, Peter Grimes it ain't.

It could be argued that some of the tunes are hummable. If so, it's because not only does he reprise songs whenever possible, most of the melodies themselves consist of the same phrases being shamelessly repeated. Then there's the borrowing. "If Only" has more than a hint of "Any Dream Will Do", from *Joseph* mixed up with the hymn "How Great Thou Art". Ultimately, all you really hear is the sound of a score crashing between any number of stools.

It's good to see Lloyd Webber moving forward, in the sense that he has abandoned the "through-sung" approach which banishes dialogue, but writing scenes is not his strength. He keeps setting up what needs to happen, as in the attempt to portray Swallow's burgeoning sexuality, but the script and the characterisation are so perfunctory that there's no real drama. Nothing is allowed to grow, it's just badly stated, as if each scene had a caption: "The Children Are Sad", "The Mob Is Angry". Everyone sings fit to bust, but what you end up with is stacks of unearned emotion. Even more problematically, the scale of the bombastic rock idiom blows the emotions out of all proportion to the fragile tale.

Hydraulics were used to lift Sun-



The children and The Man huddle together in Lloyd Webber's overblown new production

set Boulevard on to a different plane and this show's designer, Peter J. Davidson, tries to pull the same trick, but with the scenes switching endlessly between the barn and the outside world, the set goes up and down like a yo-yo, much to the delight of the partisan first night crowd, at least some of whom were presumably applauding their investment.

Gale Edwards used lighting very dramatically when she directed *Jesus Christ Superstar*. She overdoses on it here, but like the rest of her over-manipulative production the result is chillingly efficient. Your heart is supposed to be softened when someone gets bathed in a heavenly light from above; she also splashes colours across the cloudscape background to tell you what to feel: a sunset glow for "niceness", hard cold white for " nastiness" and so on. Most of the time it's fuschia for "big emotional finish".

Since you ask, they're wrestling with the devil at a revivalist meeting. See what I mean about shifts in tone? Unfortunately, even their valiant efforts can't save a show which tries in vain to suit everyone.

*Aldwych Theatre, London WC2 (0171-416 6003). A version of this review appeared in later editions of yesterday's paper*

## WHAT THE CRITICS SAID

So much piffle in the wind... The writers have tried to give the show an emotional logic. In fact, they have destroyed its whimsical charm... Everything about the show seems overblown... a musical of quite breathtaking pointlessness.

Michael Billington  
The Guardian

One of the most heartfelt shows Lloyd Webber has written. It is blessed with an outstanding, instantly memorable score that ranges from full-on rock 'n' roll to wistful ballads and emotive gospel... The script is a bit of a mess, with scrappy little scenes and often incoherent motivation and character development. Yet I warm to a commercial musical with the courage to take Christian faith, morality, racism and the problem of suffering as its subject matter.

Charles Spencer  
Daily Telegraph

Andrew Lloyd Webber has been triumphantly tuned into Middle England for two decades. But how dated, how déjà vu he now sounds. His latest musical is so ludicrous in outline, so unmemorable in song that his admirers may tune out and turn on to something more contemporary... As a musical about fanaticism and credulity, *Whistle Down The Wind* just echoes with anaemic boisterousness.

Nicholas de Jongh  
Evening Standard

The grime quotient could sometimes be higher and the cute-urchin factor lower. But Gale Edwards' crisp, punchy staging answers many of those cavils and leaves a substantially rejigged musical looking well worth a place in the West End, or, for that matter, Broadway. In fact, my principal complaint is that I can't stop the little song whistling and winding its preposterously pretty way round my eardrums.

Benedict Nightingale  
Times

Lord Andrew has tapped into a new narrative opportunity of epic anguish... Is it a hit? Who cares? It's very, very good.

Michael Coveney  
Daily Mail

# Alice through the looking glass - darkly



Pop fictionist Philip Meech

LAST YEAR Alice Thompson was in Hampstead buying a book. As she left the shop the sales assistant chased after her and asked whether she was Alice Thompson. "I thought, 'Great! At last I've been recognised as a writer,'" recalls Thompson.

"And then he said, very excitedly, 'You were in The Woodentops'." Thompson laughs. But there cannot be many authors who have reached No 1 in the independent charts and won the James Tait Black Memorial Prize for a debut novel. Switching from one kind of keyboard to another was not really so surprising. Thompson always wanted to be a writer, and three years of Woodentops was just something she did along the way. Her second novel, *Pandora's Box*, is published this week.

Thompson is one of a new breed of energetic young literary Scots including A.L. Kennedy, Alan Warner, Ali Smith and Janice Galloway. "There's a kind of intensity in Scottish writing, a love of language and taking risks," suggests Thompson, as we muse over why Scotland is producing such a clutch of good writers.

While so many huddling women writers adopt a confessional mode, 36-year-old Alice looks through a

Alice Thompson used to play keyboards in an indie band. Now she's enjoying just as much success, as part of the new wave of Scots novelists. By Marianne Brace

glass darkly. She has no desire to regurgitate her life. Metaphors, conceits and illusion are more her line. "I'm interested in creating strange, unfamiliar worlds," she says. Her writing is dream-like. Nothing is as it seems. The central image in *Justine* is a maze; in *Pandora's Box* it is glass, and has the quality of being both transparent and opaque.

In her wine-coloured velvet jacket and jeans, and with her girlish voice, Thompson seems easier to imagine pouring over some ancient text rather than strutting her stuff on *The Old Grey Whistle Test*. She was raised in Edinburgh in a family of academics, and at 18 went to Oxford University to read English.

Gravitating to London, Thompson hoped to land a job in publishing. But because she played classical piano ("no use whatever") a friend invit-

ed her to join The Woodentops as keyboard player, backing vocalist and spokesperson.

"I really just did it for the fun. I was living in a squat in Brixton and was pretty poor, and thought it would be a great way to earn money and have free nights out." Glamorous it was not. "We started playing in pubs. I remember doing a miners' benefit where we raised just enough money to buy a Mars bar." Thompson laughs. "Then John Peel asked us to do a session on radio and we took off. Rough Trade signed us up, and within a couple of months I was earning a salary."

The Woodentops' album *Giant* reached Number One in the independent charts, as did their single "Good Thing". "We were almost mega-famous," says Thompson, laughing. "We were really mobbed

and I can't remember once being offered drugs. We were offered biscuits and tea, but never drugs."

Leaving the band ("it all got a bit intense"), Thompson embarked on a PhD on Henry James and a stint as Will Self's girlfriend. But she had a yen for Scotland, and so applied for the job as writer in residence in the Shetlands. "That was fun," she says. "It was a bit like being a district nurse."

*Justine* was written during that period. Inspired by de Sade's writings, it uses his Justin and Juliette as beautiful twins on whom the opium-dazed narrator fixates. "It's a novel about obsession," explains Thompson. The idea of confession, confusion and secrecy were heightened when "canongate, the original publishers, sold the book with uncut pages. Readers had to slice their way

into the novel, turning reading - as one reviewer pointed out - into a performance art.

Despite being in competition with books by Julian Barnes, Barry Unsworth and Iain Banks, *Justine* shared the James Tait Black Memorial prize with a novel by Graham Swift. Since then, it has become a set text at both Edinburgh and Glasgow universities.

With *Pandora's Box*, Thompson wanted to write a fairy story. "Fairy tales deal in absolutes and you can't really get more gruesome than Hans Christian Andersen - *The Little Mermaid*, walking on shards of ice." *Pandora's Box* is not an easy read. It begins with Noah, a reconstruction surgeon, discovering a burning body that has dropped from the sky outside his house. It's a woman (or is it?) whom he brings

back to life, marries and calls "Pandora". But one day this strange, mute creature is murdered and her body disappears. Noah's quest is to discover who has killed his wife.

"The book is about curiosity and I want the experience of reading *Pandora's Box* to be like a dream," says Thompson. "Although dreams are difficult to make sense of, when you're in them you take them for what they are." The novel is thick with cryptic clues, and reworks the familiar theme of innocence and knowledge.

At one point Noah notices "how, since Pandora's death, it was as if everything he saw, no matter how many times, was for the first time". This is typical of Thompson's work. "I'm interested in writing that's transformative," she says, "and making people see themselves in a new way."

*"Pandora's Box", by Alice Thompson, is published by Little Brown, price £12.99*

# Goodbye cat gut, hello polystyrene

THERE CAN rarely, if ever, have been two concerts on consecutive nights in London featuring string quartets that were so different from one another and from all others of their kind. Admittedly, both the Brodsky Quartet in their collaboration with the Crouch End Festival Chorus at the Barbican and the Soweto Quartet at the Festival Hall were amplified, and supported by massive amounts of percussion; both groups sang and shouted while they played (the Soweto musicians danced as well, though). Otherwise these events inhabited different worlds.

Sunday's concert was an example of really imaginative programming - Mozart's Requiem preceded by two challenging 20th-century works,

**CLASSICAL**  
CROUCH END FESTIVAL CHORUS/ BRODSKY QUARTET  
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LONDON



The Brodsky Quartet

Laurie Lewis

sational work with text by Ben Dunwell - perhaps the nastiest was produced by bowing polystyrene cups, but a whole repertoire of shouting, screaming, clapping vocal glissandi and any number of percussion

noises (supplied by the excellent young group Striking Sounds) was employed to histrionic effect in an evocation of satanic hubbub.

Soprano Alison Pearce presided, serenely malevolent

in red and black, over the more lyrical solo sections, and David Temple directed with commendable calm amid the storm. A demanding, big sing which the CEFC, with its excellent intonation and discipline, was well up to. Whether musically speaking *Hells Angels* was worth all that effort is another question.

The Soweto Quartet and their friends didn't seem to put any effort into their performance, but musically the results were glorious. Resplendent in zebra skin tuxedos, the three Kneemese brothers and violinist Makhosini Mnguni were joined by singer Vusi Mahlasela, guitars, drums, percussion and bass in a programme that ranged from unaccompanied Dvorak to arrangements of Paul Simon

songs, and some wonderful litting, dancing traditional numbers - bossanova rhythms and what sounded like Vivaldi thrown in along the way.

Mahlasela's singing was really something - soulful vocals soaring from one octave to another - and the Quartet played and moved as one with an incredible rhythmic infectiousness. Arising from the unlikely but musically fertile conditions of Soweto, these musicians are living proof of the power of music to transcend political and social barriers and affirm life.

The result was pure joy. A packed Festival Hall loved every minute of it all, and the audience roared their approval at the end.

LAURENCE HUGHES

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# Very Gaudi, very Brian Sewell

Taxi drivers know where to find the art critic's house. That's because it boasts sculpture on the outside as well as within. By Andrew Barrow

For the past nine years I have had the rare good fortune to live next door to the art critic Brian Sewell. He is not only one of the most interesting and noteworthy men in London, he also lives in one of the most interesting and eye-catching houses in Kensington. Alas, the house is now on the market, and largely for the sake of his rampaging dogs, Mr Sewell is moving to a leafier, more spacious part of the capital.

Originally a fairly ordinary end-of-terrace four-storey brick Victorian mansion built in 1850, the house has been tampered with by several of its occupants. A 45-foot-long double studio occupies the entire original garden, and there are other facilities elsewhere, not least the glorious unmodernised kitchen and pantry in the basement. But by far the most striking and fanciful decorations are on the street side of the house, for all the world to see and delight in, a joy to behold, making the house memorable to passers by and instantly recognisable to taxi-drivers and visitors alike.

"What are those things?" people wonder, stopping and staring at the five somewhat biggedy-piggidy artworks which protrude at various angles from the stucco. The Lion and Unicorn are there, so is George and the Dragon hut, as Sewell admits, the other symbols are "fairly meaningless", a Spanish artist's loosely medieval interpretation of the glories of Coronation Year in 1953.

The house has long been connected with the arts. One of its ear-

liest occupants was the engraver Frederic Stacpoole ARA, who lived to the age of 94. Then there was a Dutch painter called Antoon van Welie. "I've got one of his portraits," blushes Sewell. "It's terrible, terrible. A picture of a grinning boy. I bought it for about £70. You can have it when I leave, if you like."

So far, so bad, but this attention-seeking house - what other central London home shouts out at passers-by "Look at me! Look at me!" - was utterly transformed, from the outside anyway, in 1929, when its new owner, the Irish mining engineer turned art collector Chester Beatty, hired the architect Theo Schaefer to turn this rather narrow, demure brick house into an interesting new-looking pseudo Charles Rennie Mackintosh building. Mackintosh had only died the previous year and was still very much the presiding genius of the day.

All his trademarks are here - small paned windows, vertical motifs and lots and lots of white - but according to the imaginative Sewell, the building looks more like "an up-ended South African farm house". The roof-level gable, he insists, is "typically South African".

Chester Beatty lived here till 1951, and his most famous painting, the record-breaking Van Gogh *Sunflowers*, according to Sewell, hung above the mantelpiece in the front room. Beatty also tinkered about with the inside, installing antique barley sugar newel posts to the staircase and other baroque details.

Good for him - but it wasn't until 1953 that the house's new owner,



Brian Sewell's Kensington house boasts a pseudo Charles Rennie Mackintosh facade, embellished with sculptures by Juan Rebull

Philip Meech

Arpad Elfer, a Hungarian photographer and advertising man with an interest in what would now be described as soft pornography, put the finishing touches to the building by hiring the Catalan artist Juan Rebull to add the five fancy, though non-salacious sculptured panels to the front of the house. "It did rather cry out for something, didn't it?" remarks Brian Sewell as he pores over

the original architects' drawings of 1929. Rebull spent most of his working life working on Gaudi's Sagrada Familia church in Barcelona, but had a mistress in London. What a shame that this Kensington house is the only building in London to bear his most distinctive marks.

Incidentally, Mr Rebull's patron Mr Elfer seems to have been equally interested in real-life activities at

the back of the house. On the 40-foot terrace, he apparently held full-scale orgies. From their next-door bedroom windows the young daughters of the National Trust chief Robin Fedden watched with fascination "as events unfolded".

This house has been Brian Sewell's home since 1972, during which time he has risen from being a fairly unknown artist and picture

restorer to become England's most controversial art critic. Curiously and mercifully, he seems to be the only occupant of the house to make no alterations to it. Indeed his only addition to the building is the elegant, minor Palladian dog kennel on the front doorstep. Actually, says Sewell, it's a cat box, built by a carpenter 20 years ago, to house an unfriendly cat who refused to come

indoors. One only hopes that this charming adornment will stay with the house, if only as a memento of my remarkable and most friendly, and neighbourly, neighbour.

Brian Sewell's house is for sale at Harpers, 53 Abingdon Road, London W8 0BT (0171 938 2311); Andrew Barrow's novel *The Man in the Moon* is published by Picador (£5.99)

## THE MILLENNIUM COLLECTION

NO 3: 'JACK' LIGHT-CUM-STOOL DESIGNED BY TOM DIXON

So far, over 200 Millennium Products have been chosen for their excellent design. Each week we will examine one of them.

"JACK" BY Tom Dixon is the first playful piece in the Millennium Products Collection. A stool that doubles as a light, made from moulded polyethylene - the same stuff traffic bollards are fashioned from - it puts the fun back into functional. Tough enough to sit on, but not for long - it heats up - the "Jack" is really a tad too funky for the Design Council who are making the selection for the Millennium Dome.

The Design Council is the body that turned down teacups with legs in the days when they had that popular little shop in Haymarket because, strictly speaking, tea-sets don't need stockinged feet. Yet stacks of "Jack" went into the selection finals of the Millennium Products Collection as much for being made in Britain as for their geometry.

Last year Dixon set up Eurlounge which manufactures "Jack" in Manchester and Somerset. Juggernauts have taken thousands of them - "six tons worth" - from his aircraft hangar distribution centre in Norfolk across Europe where furniture shops can't get enough of them. It's been such a



successful export drive that the British Council buy stacks of the stool that lights up for exhibitions around the world. When Dixon first exhibited them in 1997 at the Cologne Furniture Fair he sold 3,000.

Tom Dixon is in charge of the British design division in Habitat,

sourcing over 4,000 products with their French team. He calls his manufacturing enterprise "taking on the Italians". Flick through any style magazine and you will discover at least one celebrity house that contains the sinuous cantilevered S-bend chair he designed for Cappellini in

Italy which sells for just under £1000. Dixon, educated at the liberal Holland Park Comprehensive in the Seventies when Thatcherism was just taking off, is too egalitarian to approve. He doesn't care that it's practically an icon in the furniture industry. "It'd be more iconic if everybody had one. I'd

have sourced the Philippines to make it cheaper," he says.

To make "Jack" he pioneered a way of mixing dyes into the polyethylene to get an even colour that lights up if there is a socket nearby. He also uses phosphorescent dyes which glow in the dark.

Anyone who thinks "Jack" is simply a traffic bollard thingie with big protruberances, will be astonished to learn it is a regular icosahedron, a solid, with 20 plane faces. "That's the reason it appeals so universally," Dixon explains. "Celtic, Islamic, Hindu, the maths are the same."

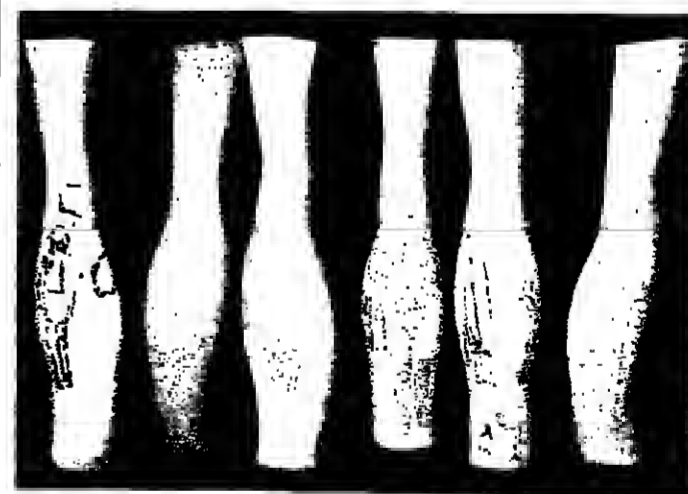
He's amused that it means so many different things to so many people. "So Sixties" people say. Or "Sexy". The Japanese call it a tetrapod, which is a four-footed creature with a spine, and the French think its outline is like their sea defences set in concrete along the coastline.

There is a smaller version which works only as a light and which looks like takeaway polystyrene cups spiked together; it is known technically as a stellation of a cube.

NONIE NIESEWAND

"Jack" is available for £160 in red, blue, lilac, yellow, white, orange and black by mail order from Eurlounge. 0171 792 5477.

## TOMORROW'S WORLD



Above: semi-porcelain vessels by Catie Gough  
Below: porcelain 'Light' by Wendy Jung

SEIZE THE opportunity to view, commission, or even buy the wares of more than 2000 design graduates who will be exhibiting at the Business Design Centre in Islington, north London next week. The New Designers' Exhibition features Category Pavilions ranging from furniture and industrial design to graphics, silver-smithing, ceramics, jewellery and photography. Appropriately, Columbia is this year's guest country with a display of its young designers' work in

bamboo, gold and packaging design. Footballs are not much in evidence.

The New Designers' Exhibition at the Business Design Centre, 52 Upper Street, Islington, London N1 0QH, will be held in two parts: 9-12 July will include furniture, glass, ceramics, metalwork, product design and interior design; 16-19 July will concentrate on graphics, fashion, textiles, photography and packaging. Daily tickets: £6, £4 concessions. Tel: 0171 359 3535.



Extract from *Money* by Martin Amis (Penguin, £5.99)

John Self, a scabrous porn freak and ad director returns from his New York trip to London.

I THINK of my West London flat as a kind of playboy pad. This has no effect on my flat, which remains a gaff, a lair, a lean-to - a sock. It smells of batch, of bachelorhood: even I can nose it... Like an ado-

lescent, throbbing, gaping, my poor flat pines for a female presence. And so do I. Its spirit is broken, and so is mine. My pad has tumbled cream carpets, a rhino-and-pylon sofa and an oval bed with black satin counterpane. None of this is mine. The voile walls are not mine. I hire everything... I've lived here for ten years now and nothing

## DESIGN LINES

is mine. My flat is small and also costs me a lot of money. I ran an eye over my book collection: *Home Tax Guide*, *Treasure Island*, *The Usurers*, *Our Mutual Friend*. Buy Buy Buy, Silas Marner, Success!

*The Pardners Tale*, *Confessions of a Bailiff*, *The Diamond as Big as the Ritz*. I stared at my space-age sound system. Many years ago I outgrew rock music, and have failed to grow into any other kind since.

On the quartz coffee-table serving the spudjacket sofa a deck of unopened mail is carelessly fanned.

While the champagne cooled in my small but powerful refrigerator... I activated the television. With a premonitory crackle the Prince of Wales surged onto the hired screen. Hi, Prince, I said to myself, when did you get back?... He's pulled a little darling called Lady Diana. She doesn't look as though she'll give him any trouble...

# A little folly in paradise

**Barbara Neil  
braved herds  
of inquisitive  
cows and swarms  
of bees to  
change a ruined  
temple into a  
writer's den**

This place where I work has always been called The Temple, when it is no more than a folly, a gazebo, 10ft deep, 15 wide. But "The Temple" is written under the old photographs, from the days when it was approached by a gravel path 250ft long - a path bordered by stone urns and iris beds and banked by rhododendron, azalea, all of it tended by 14 gardeners. And, once upon a time, supported on the curved back wall of The Temple - it is possible to glimpse it in those old photographs - there was a marble frieze in which chubby-bottomed cherubs frolicked. But that has gone, leaving only three rusting iron hooks. No one remembers what it was, or when, or why, it disappeared. The gravel path is gone too, and the irises, and the urns, not to mention the 14 gardeners. The rhododendron and azalea still flourish - more than flourish, having witnessed the demise of formality, they are intent on becoming mountains. A 10-minute walk from the house, and easy to miss since it is approached through a natural tunnel in that massive rhododendron, The Temple now sits in an orchard enclosed by a fence, over which cows in the field beyond stretch their necks ruminating on the end and the presence of me and my dogs. Even inside the orchard this delicate building is still not immediately in sight, but tucked far down on the right, behind the apple trees. I originally came here one summer, but only when the weather was right, to work in a nonchalant sort of way on my second book *Someone Wonderful*. It was open to the elements on three sides, with roots and bracken erupting through the flagstones. The six oak pillars were rotting and the roof was falling in. The sparseness and dilapidation suited me, a reflection of my state of mind. There was nothing there to challenge me, no place for other books or those maddening talismans writers are apt to collect. Everything had to be carried there and back with each trip. So it was my head, a pen and a pad. I worked on through the autumn, then the winter. Really bad weather became the perfect excuse to slack. Since, with the passing of the spring and the following summer, I realised there was nowhere else I



Writer's retreat: Barbara Neil has written four novels in her grand "gazebo" which is set amongst mountainous rhododendrons and azaleas

John Lawrence

wanted to work, and because simply to be here feels somehow heartening in every way, it was obvious something had to be done. Reluctantly, at first, because my plan seemed almost to be a violation, I had the sides of The Temple glassed and sliding doors set into the front. Two electric points were installed, one for a heater, one for a laptop, the beginning of my slow farewell to longhand. I work at an old pine table, its surface chopped and grooved, and sit on a (come to think of it) rather nasty and certainly not very comfortable stool. But the table is an awkward height and the stool swivels, so with little effort I can match them. In any case, table and stool have served for four novels. On the rare occasions I show visitors this place, they almost always

remark on how inspirational it must be. It is true the view is lovely, but the idea of looking up, finger to cheek as it were, and thinking "What now? Oh what a lovely view! I know what", and off I go again, is not what the writing process is like. If the ideas flow then concentration is such that I might as well be facing a wall, and very often find myself so, unable to quite remember how I came to be that way, like waking up the wrong end of the bed. If they do not flow then I am as likely to curse the view, or at least blame it for distraction. Yet the surroundings have imposed themselves, certainly twice, and always impressively. Five or six years ago I was here but mentally removed when some eyelet in my subconscious began to blink at the notion of something near, some-

*It was open to the elements... The sparseness and dilapidation suited me, a reflection of my state of mind*

thing not human. I carried on without lifting my eyes. If I acknowledged anything it was probably with some vague and pretentious mental salute like, "Ah, good morning, Muse". Eventually, the dimmest interest was awoken in me, caused by a minute, indefinable disturbance. I

looked up to find a cow had cased her front half through the doors and was perusing my papers, her nose not six inches from mine. Her sisters were peering in behind her. Then there was the time the light altered. Again, unwilling to be distracted, I reached for the lamp switch without looking. I suppose I assumed it was a change in the weather, more rain. There was a noise, too, but one which must have begun so low, and filled the air so gradually and completely, blending so seamlessly with the atmosphere, like the rust of a train at the point when you don't know if it is a train or simply the wind. Then something like a black bead began to ricochet off the glass and around the walls of The Temple, making a terrible, angry noise, which was amplified by the echo. When my eyes adjusted

from the screen and saw it was a bee I was not too bothered. Then I realised the changed light was due to a swarm massing outside The Temple, teeing up to enter I slammed the glass doors shut and within seconds was in virtual darkness which lasted some minutes while battalions of bees hurtled against the spot where one of them had managed to enter. The noise was phenomenal as I sat, awe-struck and perfectly safe. Just me and that bee, and even he settled down quite soon. It is still very basic here. There is a dark green canvas curtain for when the sun's too strong and, all right, I confess, I do have a wicked wicker armchair and footstool - but the dogs always reach it before me. I have also found, to my distress, that I can not think clearly if I'm com-

fortable and certainly not if lying down, like one of those dolls with eyelids that click shut when tipped the faintest degree of vertical. The talisman and trinkets, exasperating though it is, have insulated themselves after all. That is what comes of being weatherproof. Small gifts to encourage from those I love. And standing on my table are two figures: a two-inch plastic gnome holding a microphone, with "World's Best Mum" etched on the base; and beside him is a carved wooden cherub playing a violin, possibly willing his fat-bottomed chums back where they ought to be, filling that empty space, in a frieze. Barbara Neil's latest novel, *A History Of Silence*, is published by Macmillan (£16.99)

## DESIGN DETAILS

FIONA MCCARTHY

AFICIANADOS OF shed life argue that simplicity is the thing: you can create a writer's den out of any old shack. The snag is, of course, that you have to have a shack in the first place. Those who don't and crave something a little more sophisticated than a Dylan Thomas bike shed, can turn to Amdega (The Belvedere with ogee arch will set you back a mere £4,415. Tel: 0800 591523) or, for something a little less expensive, Courtyard Designs will build an hexagonal, summerhouse in your garden for £3,460 (Tel: 01886 884640). And you don't even have to leave your shed to kit it out in an appropriate manner. Mail-order companies will supply you with anything from a tea crate complete with a bushy outdoor Tea Camellia growing in its own terracotta pot, plus a caddy of Assam tea and box of butter biscuits (£30 the lot from The Gluttonous Gardener, tel: 0171 627 0800) to a steamer chair

Teak steamer chair, £365, from Ocean



(£365 from Ocean Home Shopping, tel: 0870 848484). Since writers spend a lot of time stopping writing and making tea instead, a set of 6 blue and white mugs for £11.50 (House, tel: 01258 454884) is a must, along with a collection of 18 bistro glasses for £12.95 (Grand Illusions, tel: 0181 892 2151) for that moment when the sun slips over the yardarm and you can lay down your pen on a classic

Jenning's Folly Butler's Tray (£78 from Pukka Palace, tel: 0345 666 660) and take up a drink instead. Light up a few citronella garden candles (also from House) to ward off the midges, wrap up warm in a pure wool throw rug in gingham check (£52 from Melin Tregwyn, tel: 01348 891644) and wait for someone to tell you to stop relaxing and help put the children into bed.



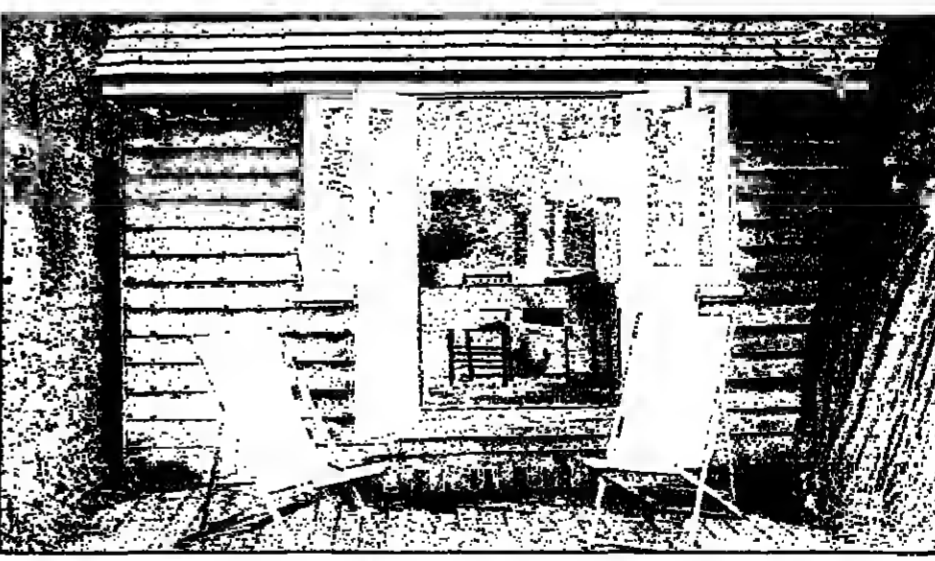
Citronella garden candles, £24.95 for three; blue and white mugs, £11.50 for six; all from House

## Novel ideas in shed design

A shack at the end of the garden is nothing new for writers: Bernard Shaw revolved in his; Virginia Woolf smoked roll-ups in hers. Peter Parker visits some famous authorial hide-outs

THE IDEA of retreating to a garden shed, away from the telephone, door-to-door salesmen, evangelists and other distractions of the daily round, has appealed to many writers. Indeed, even before the advent of modern communications, there were poets at the bottom of the garden. A drawing by William Kent depicts Pope in a shell-studded grotto in his garden at Twickenham, London, languidly casting his eye over a manuscript. While, at Olney, Buckinghamshire, in the 1780s, William Cowper, having worked for a while in his greenhouse, constructed a tiny summerhouse in which he wrote his long poem *The Task*. Although Cowper's retreat was so small that he compared it to a sedan chair, he declared: "Never poet had more commodious oratory in which to evoke his muse."

Bernard Shaw's muse was invoked in a revolving study designed to follow the sun. In keeping with the house at Ayot St Lawrence, Hertfordshire - which even its current owners, the National Trust, describe as "undistinguished, indeed thoroughly unattractive" - Shaw's study was starkly unadorned, resembling a prefabricated outhouse of the sort in which one might store chickens. Within, it was well appointed and even had electricity. Shaw sat at his desk on a wicker chair and had a bunk bed on which to rest. Less austere than Shaw, Dylan Thomas cheered up the former bicycle shed in which he



Virginia Woolf's study at Monk's House

National Trust / Eric Creighton

wrote by painting it blue. Situated on the cliff path running above his cottage at Laugharne, Dyfed, it commanded an inspirational view over the Taf estuary. It was warmed by a coal-burning stove and adorned with photographs of Auden, Lawrence, Hardy and Whitman, pinned up alongside "pictures of monkeys and naked women". The floor was invisible beneath a deep litter of discarded letters and manuscripts, tossed from the table at which Thomas wrote *Under Milk Wood*. Roald Dahl's writing hut, according to his biographer, Jeremy Treglown, "represented part of an effort not only to recreate his early childhood, but to improve on it". Sur-

rounded by a bizarre array of personal fetishes - his father's paperknife, stones brought back from war service in North Africa, bits of his own bones salvaged from operations - Dahl cocooned himself in a sleeping bag and allowed the years to roll back. "It's small and tight and dark and the curtains are always drawn and it's a kind of a womb," he acknowledged. It is mainly men who have been seen stumping down the garden path after breakfast to do a day's writing, perhaps because it has always been easier for them than for women to shut themselves away from their families. There are, however, some distinguished exceptions. As the Second World War approached, Vera Brittain

decided to remove her children from London and bought a gamekeeper's cottage in the New Forest. It was here, in a trellis-clad hut in the garden, that she wrote the final draft of *Testament of Friendship*. Her daughter, Shirley Williams, is now building a more substantial study, designed like Shaw's to revolve with the sun, in her Hertfordshire garden. While Vita Sackville-West retreated to a room in the Elizabethan tower at Sissinghurst, Kent, Virginia Woolf had to make do with a small converted tool-shed at Monk's House, Rodmell, East Sussex. Later on, a larger study was built at the far end of the garden, against the church wall in the shade of some chestnut trees. Here

Woolf would work each morning until a bell summoned her to lunch. When I visited Monk's House, I discovered a devout fan in the garden study who asked if I minded waiting outside until she had "absorbed the atmosphere" - an atmosphere, I imagine, composed chiefly of hand-rolled cigarettes and the wan ghosts of those Woolf had skewered in the diaries she wrote there. Woolf had servants and no children, her circumstances resembling those of Elizabeth Bishop, who built a studio - "white-washed walls, old brick floor, grey ceiling" - in the extensive grounds of her house in Brazil. Casual visitors were less of a hazard here, but unlike Dylan Thomas, Bishop was concerned that the beauty of her natural surroundings might distract her from the task of writing poetry. The property had a wonderful view out across a valley to mountains beyond, but the studio was built so that its main window looked out on to a blank wall.

## SCP Sale

Save up to 50% on furniture and accessories at SCP during the sale starting July 4 until July 25 1998. SCP are getting bigger. New floor opening August 1998. Mon - Sat 09.30 - 18.00 135-139 Curtain Rd, London EC2A 3BX 0171 733 1869

# Sir Norman's fantasy of flight

There is no coming down to earth when you land at Foster's new Hong Kong airport. By Nonie Niesewand



On Sunday at 11.30pm when Kai Tak airport in downtown Hong Kong closes forever, the 350,000 inhabitants of Kowloon will get their first good night's sleep since the airport opened 73 years ago. Overnight, the entire international airline operation will move to Chek Lap Kok on the nearby island of Lantau. So the next time you fly to Hong Kong, there will be no need to take a beta-blocker as the plane noses down between high-rise towers on to a slippery runway that ends in the South China seas.

From the air, Chek Lap Kok stretches its convex coils like a gargantuan sea creature sunning itself. The higher your aerial perspective, the more the vaulted roofs of the cavernous terminus halls flatten out. But on the final approach, the terminus profile rhythmically reveals its loops, the way children draw Nessie. Along its spine, diamond markings let in natural light.

British architect Sir Norman Foster literally moved mountains to build the airport. Six years ago he landed his helicopter on a peak sticking 345ft out of the sea, a place he describes as "the world's loveliest site, crescent sands, big blue-green hills all around". That was before it was blown up and recycled, with 197 million cubic metres of reclaimed materials, as a landmass 2.5 miles long and two miles wide. Where junks and sampans once anchored, 78 planes can now park.

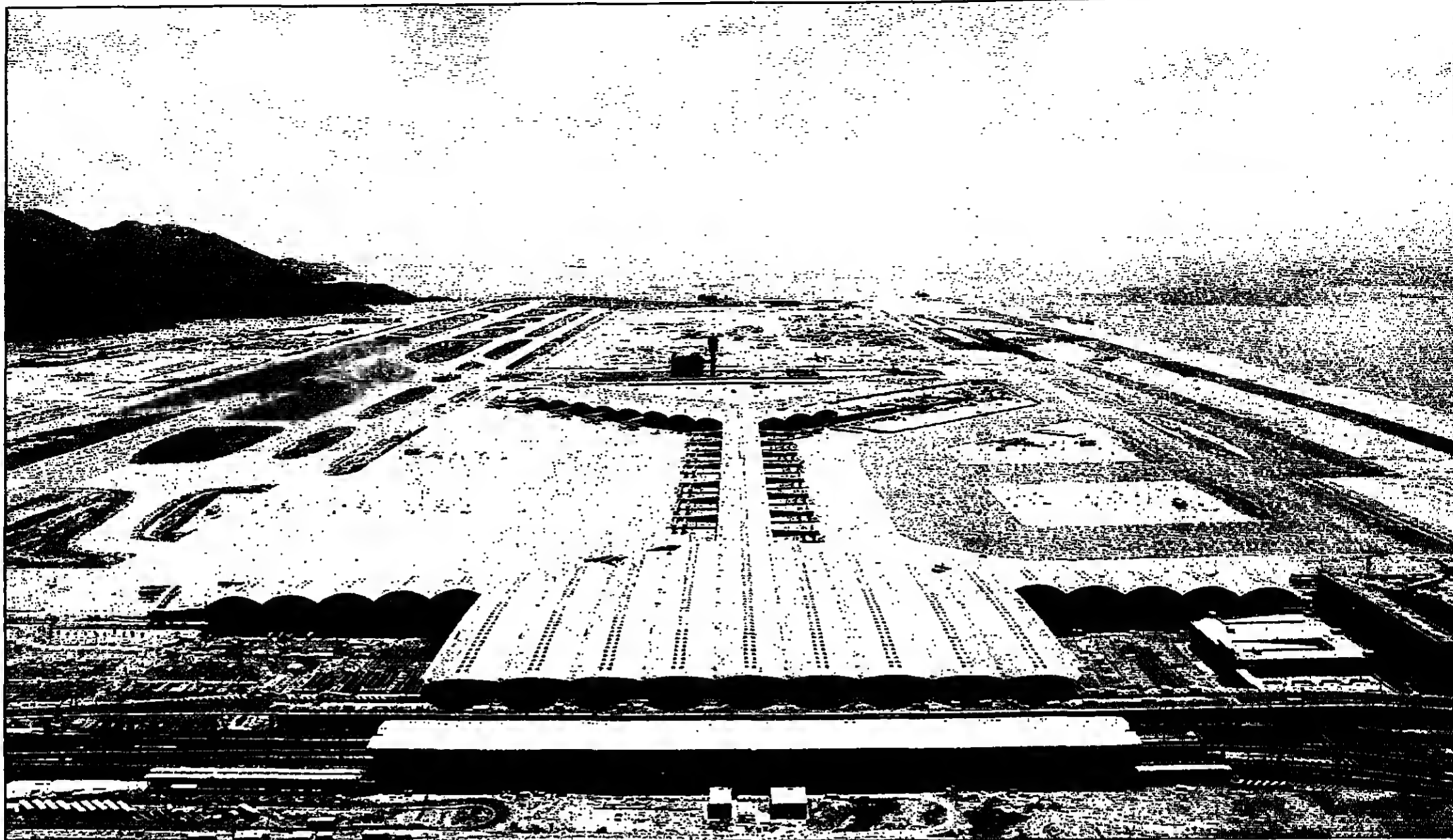
As big as a city – and capable of receiving 35 million passengers a year in a hall bigger than Wembley Stadium – the airport employs 70,000 people, many of whom live in the Tung Chung new town nearby. By 2004 it will be able to handle 87 million passengers a year.

Yet within this heavy-duty building, the marvellous delicacy of touch that Foster has exhibited marshals space so lightly that the whole building seems poised for take-off. Far from dwarfing travellers, the fluidity of the space and the wraparound views are very user-friendly. Even the shopping malls have been corralled in the stubby east and west wings to make shopping easier without spoiling the view. Foster learned this from Stansted, Britain's fourth airport, which had vistas of flying machines until Knickerbox and Body Shop blocked them.

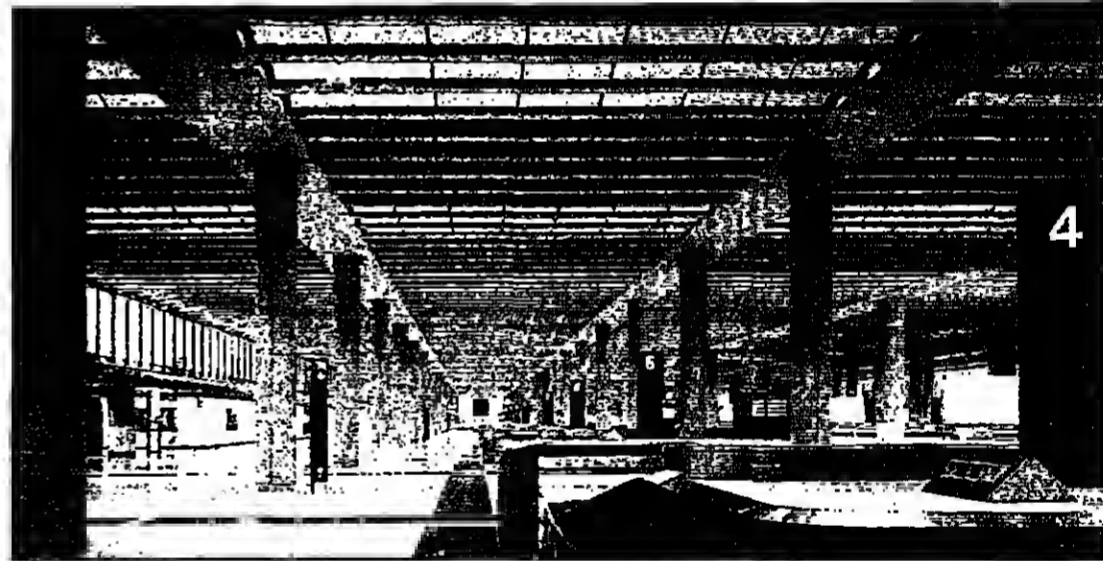
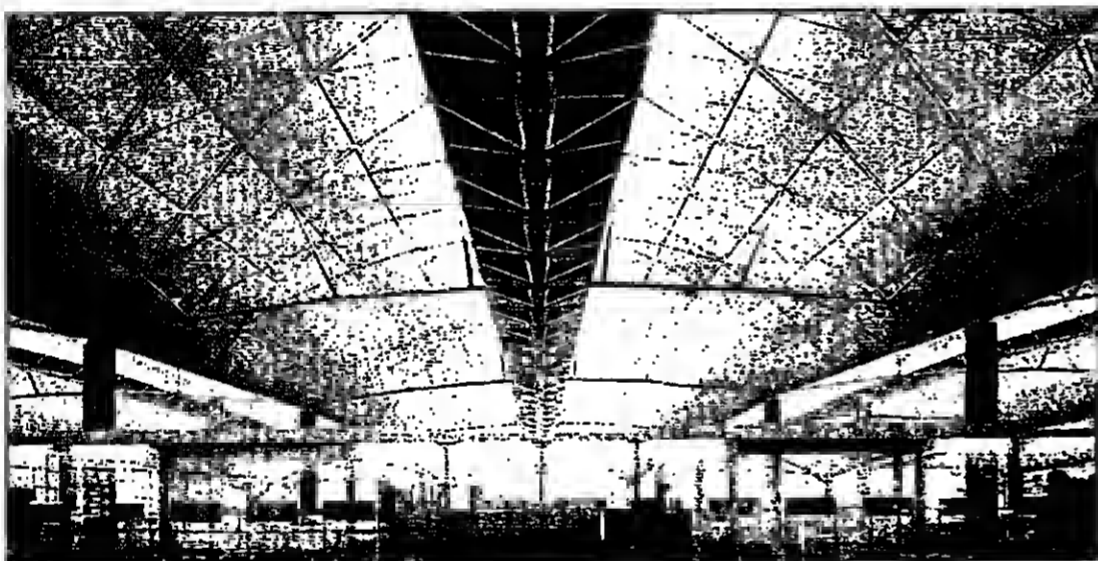
"It's all about experiencing the pleasure of travel, the imagination and excitement of it," says Foster. "You have a relationship with the outside. It couldn't be anywhere else in the world."

Foster has grown in stature from an architect with a small practice of 30 people to a multi-billion pound operation employing 500 architects in London, with offices in Singapore, Berlin and Hong Kong. As his company has expanded, so has his vision. His masterpiece includes the infrastructure, as important to him as the big building, even if it is masterminded by someone else.

The steel roof swoops up from the taxi drop-off point above the express train station, linked to Hong Kong Central 23 minutes away. It soars over check-in desks, touches down at customs and immigration, rushing on to form the five vaulted arches of the 800m facade that gives access to 38 gates. Glass floors and



From Monday this will be visitors' first view of Hong Kong – landing at Chek Lap Kok, which, as the world's biggest airport, can be seen from space. Designed by Sir Norman Foster, top left, natural light beams into the core of the building from the roof panels running the length of the spine, below left, while, 10 747s can fit inside the concourse, below right. Dennis Gilbert/View



open chambers allow passengers to view goings-on in departures and arrivals. An internal train runs down the 1.8km spine, traversed by concourses like wings. A V-shaped tail fin, designed to take the big-bellied planes of the future, is under construction as part of Phase Two. There are no partitions or walls to interrupt the view of aeroplanes.

The building's time-scale was punishing. "I remember that the year before the Airport Authority in Hong Kong announced this project," says Foster, "the Terminal Five proposal for Heathrow by Richard Rogers was announced. Hong Kong is built and yet Terminal Five is still the subject of an inquiry with another five months to run."

"I knew that there was never a second chance. On most design projects there's an opportunity to reassess or research aspects after debate. But on this one I never had the luxury to reconsider anything. I re-

ally only had one shot at it." It came in on time and marginally under budget, despite more or less exhausting world resources of fibreglass for moulding the concrete on site.

Norman Foster looks suspiciously like he is taking over the world. He currently has 100 projects under construction. His company has recently completed the reconstruction of the Reichstag (he is also redesigning the German eagle), and is working on the highest towers in the world – in Japan, the Millennium Bridge over the Thames and the Metro at Bilbao, where a new word has entered the Basque language, *Fosteritis*, to describe his street furniture. "Heroic" is a word he uses a lot about his own architecture. Only his highly developed social conscience – he believes architects can make a difference to the quality of life – stops him turning into Blotfeld, the megalomaniac in Bond movies. Take the Hongkong and Shang-

hai Bank, which was the turning point in Foster's fortunes in 1979. The grey-girdered, elegantly criss-crossed building catapulted him into world-class architecture. Every Sunday, thousands of picnickers on their day off congregated in the shade of the piazza, stir-frying in woks on braziers. Norman, who dislikes hierarchical spaces, loves this communal enjoyment of his building. By comparison, the Bank of China, I.M. Pei's four glass towers, angled like bamboo nodes to signify growth, is sealed and secretive, always aloof.

Foster's stamina is constantly tested. In the first stages of the bank project nearly 20 years ago, he knew he could not last if he was not in better shape to cope with the travelling. He had to perform on arrival, without jet lag. So he began cycling and running. At 63, he has just flown from Berlin to Hong Kong for the weekend, and thence to Valencia to open his convention centre. Yet he still

finds time to slip out to David Tang's Shanghai Tang to buy purple silk pyjamas for his wife Elena.

Just as Foster's Hongkong and Shanghai Bank symbolised the Eighties as a power-dressed symbol of corporate muscle, so his new metropolis at Chek Lap Kok is designed to put a good face on this sovereign state. In its transparency, it represents the hands-off attitude of China towards Hong Kong, an attitude that will be difficult to sustain if economic recession changes it into a potential source of instability. No doubt, when President Jiang Zemin opened Chek Lap Kok with John Prescott he was aware of the visionary face that Foster has given China's newest showcase.

But the new front door of Hong Kong is not perfect. The architect's triumph has been overshadowed by a technical error for which no one will accept responsibility. Some of the glass panels – maybe as much as a

third of the five-kilometre glass curtain – show "misting" at the corners. The Airport Authority admits the fault is purely cosmetic, not a matter of public safety, but that it is "unsightly" and that in a world-class project like this, the contractor may have to replace some of the glass. Looking out of the windows, I did not see any of this "blurring". Chris Wise, director of the engineering company Ove Arup, who works with Norman but not at Chek Lap Kok, is indignant on Foster's behalf. He feels the building is taking unfair criticism. "A building like an airport is a fantastically complicated bit of architecture and engineering and we ought to be celebrating the fact."

Foster's magnificent airport has fallen victim to a fashion for knocking contemporary architects using cutting-edge technology with glass. Three great British architects of this century, Norman Foster, Richard

Rogers and Nicholas Grimshaw are all under fire at present for their glass specifications. Grimshaw is sending legal warnings to anyone investigating the fact that tarpaulins are strung up at the Eurostar Waterloo terminal to catch any glass which may fall – none has, but five panes have sprung hairline cracks. Nickel sulphide, a blemish in the glass which grows, is rumoured to be the problem. Grimshaw and Partners are inclined to believe it is the maintenance people walking all over the glass. The discovery of a reindeer's leg on the roof has baffled the investigators. Meanwhile, Richard Rogers has resorted to the law to defend his use of glass at his Bordeaux law courts.

The forthcoming engineering report on the glass curtain at Chek Lap Kok will clear Foster of blame, but one can not help feeling sorry that the issue has clouded his pleasure at a remarkable achievement.

A NIGHT out in London's West End can be a very unpleasant experience. Victorian theatres may be pretty but they are airless, have lousy sightlines, no leg room, tiny little bars staffed by deaf tempered deaf people, and four lavatories apiece. After an expensive slab of polenta you then fight your way to NCP prior to the obligatory row in the car.

The increasing grotteness and expense of the West End is sure to drive Londoners back to their neighbourhood theatres: Hackney Empire, Lyric Hammersmith and Sadler's Wells, whose new glass-fronted incarnation by REWL (Indoors) and Nicholas Hare Architects (outdoors) will open for business this autumn.

This will be the sixth theatre on the Islington site since Dick Sadler first opened his music-house in 1883. None of the buildings has been particularly distinguished and most were knocked up on the cheap when the old one fell down – in 1764 the theatre was rebuilt in seven weeks for a modest £4,225.

The most recent 1931 building was the brainchild of Lilian Baylis who raised the money by charitable

donation. It was never much of a theatre, the stage was poky, the acoustics were terrible and the foyer was the size of a shoe box. But nobody cared. It was a true people's theatre, made possible by local enthusiasm – and it was cheap. In 1934 you could see Nettle de Valois's fledgling Royal Ballet with Alicia Markova, Robert Helpmann and the young Fonteyn for sixpence plus a twopenny busride from the West End.

The building's many shortcomings were no barrier to its success or its popularity, but by the late Eighties the theatre was simply worn out. Public affection was for the idea of Sadler's Wells, not for the building itself so when the National Lottery got going Sadler's Wells was first in line to ask for money for a new theatre. They said yes.

As I walked around the site last

week the shell of the new building was swarming with carpenters and electricians busy with the final phase. The drone of drills and generators came a poor second to the strong, confident thrust of Ian Albery, whose chosen specialist subject is "Sadler's Wells, its glorious past and illustrious future". Albery took over as chief executive in 1994. Within months he was planning to knock the whole thing down and start again. By October this year the new £48m theatre will be open for business.

Albery's proudest boast is the size of the stage itself. When the last theatre was built, Lilian Baylis's commendable thrift had led her to copy the cramped dimensions of the Old Vic so that existing scenery could simply be moved wholesale across Waterloo Bridge by horse and cart. This meant that the front of the stage was only a measly thirty feet



New foyer M Von Sternberg

wide. At 15 metres square the new stage will be larger than the one at Covent Garden.

It's a huge space, currently adorned with dangling coils of electric cable that hang about the wings like vines. The height of the proscenium opening (an unusually generous 10 metres) was decided on after discussions with the set designer Ralph Koltai. The vastness of the stage's "fourth wall" opens out the space, minimising the barrier between stage and auditorium, but the contact can be made even greater.

The orchestra pit and the front and sides of the stalls are designed to be totally flexible so that promenade areas, choir stalls or on stage seating can be added as required. The theatre can stretch and shrink to accommodate houses ranging from 900 to 1,800 because the "second circle" ("dress" and "upper" cir-

cle sounded too snobby, apparently) can be screened from view by acoustically transparent screens.

Even standing in the concrete shell, the dimensions of the space give some inkling of the glamour of the finished building. The lofty foyer, the great glass facade and the promise of video installations, live relays and proper Art all suggest that the theatre will have more atmosphere and excitement than the drab, utilitarian Barbican or South Bank.

There should be some excitement on stage too. The programme announced so far includes Rambert Dance Company, the very sexy Frankfurt Ballet and the doyenne of the European avant garde Pina Bausch. The theatre will also serve as a sort of theatrical sofa bed for the homeless Royal Opera and Royal Ballet whose old home won't be

ready until December 1999. It'll have to be quite a small opera though. Ian Albery is full of the joys of his high tech fly tower but he can get very no-can-do when anyone suggests grand opera.

Fair enough, really. He can do perfectly good business with the Wells's established mix, thank you very much. What's more, his core audience base has mushroomed during the closure period.

Sadler's Wells is only 20 minutes from the West End but it is also very much a neighbourhood theatre – and the neighbourhood is growing. Islington is expanding southwards as every available square foot of light industrial space is rapidly converted into a "luxury" loft (is there any other kind?). Restaurants spring up overnight so that at ground level you are knee deep in roasted fennel.

The gentrification of Finsbury should consolidate the shiny new Sadler's Wells as a smart place to be – it's even got a Weddings Licence. From £7.50 a seat the "artists and labourers" Lilian Baylis wanted as the Wells' audience are in for a treat.

light  
Niesewand

# MUSIC

## The whole world in his voice

From Senegal comes a small man whose voice is big enough to capture the country's colour, vibrancy and hope for the future.  
Jane Cornwell talks to the explosive Baaba Maal

BAABA MAAL reckons his voice exploded some time around his sixteenth birthday. "In Senegal a singer has to communicate with hundreds of people in a big space, without a microphone," he says. "So little by little your voice changes. With training you pass a certain level, what we call the 'voice exploding', or *daande haki*. After that, you can never be quiet again."

You wouldn't think it to look at him. A fine-boned, fawn-like creature bedecked with gold jewellery and clad head-to-toe in Prada. Maal slips unobtrusively into an upstairs room at Chris Blackwell's new Palm Pictures label in Notting Hill. If it's not too much trouble, he wonders politely, he'd like to catch the end of the World Cup match on in the office below. "But of course you must ask me whatever you want first," he says in slightly nasal, heavily accented English.

The bizarrely youthful looking Maal, who lists his age as "Somewhere between thirty-five and forty," is used to holding court. Like his compatriots Yousou N'dour and Salif Keita, he's found fame in the West ("Like hearing Muddy Waters for the first time," trumpeted John Peel), whipping international audiences into primal frenzies and winning over an international press antipathetic to "world music" through jaw dropping talent and intelligent commentary. "My music is universal anyway," says the man who has played Glastonbury's main rock stage.

At home in West Africa the singer and musician is a superstar. News that Maal is between touring commitments and in situ in the Senegalese capital Dakar triggers mass hysteria. Ordinary folk flock to hear his words of wisdom: he's mobbed if he so much as pops out for a pint. His music is ubiquitous, spilling out of schools and villages, buses and marketplaces. He has founded a record label, Yoff Productions, to foster young musicians.

His regular charity concerts at Dakar Stadium are the stuff of

legend. Even the Senegalese government has co-opted him in an attempt to persuade its people to vote in the forthcoming legislative elections. "I go on TV to tell them it's important, but I remain impartial," says Maal.

A teacher and messenger as well as an entertainer, Maal's fierce intellect, biting social commentary and global vision have made him an emblem of hope in a country troubled by famine and war. "But in Senegal there's also lots of smiling, mad clothes, dancing together and positive energy for the future," Maal flashes a sparkly grin. "I want to be in the middle of that."

Maal was born into the nomadic Fulani tribe in the northern river town of Podor, one of eleven siblings. His father, when not working in the fields, called worshippers to the local mosque with songs. Maal's own swooping, wailing high tenor owes much to Muslim chanting. His late, beloved mother encouraged him to explore the traditional forms of the area. He listened to James Brown, Otis Redding, Etta James and Bob Marley on the airwaves.

"American black music, rhythm and blues, reggae, I loved them, but they all had their roots in West Africa. I thought, why am I hearing this on the radio and not traditional African music?"

Maal learned French and English and joined a 70-member acoustic group while studying composition in Dakar. There were problems – the lower caste Maal was not a *griot* (the musician caste who play at traditional ceremonies) by birth, so a musical profession was taboo. Undeterred, he toured West Africa with the blind guitarist Mansour Seck, a *griot* (and current member of Maal's band, Daande Lenol) and childhood friend. Maal was eventually elected by the *griots* to represent the Fulani. "I broke the mould," he says with a dignified shrug. "Which is why, today, I am the voice of the young people's ambition."

He entered the Paris Conservatoire, where he "began to see all the



Maal's fierce intellect, biting social commentary and global vision have made him an emblem of hope in a country troubled by famine and war Tom Pilon

differences in music and how all these musics could go together". Back in Senegal several years later, Maal formed Daande Lenol, a group of traditional players with a penchant for cross-cultural experimentation. "We take from the past and put into the present," Maal says. "Inside the sound are the original things – my voice, the lyrics in my language, the kora, the talking drum. We use synthesizers, drum machines and electronic guitars, but combine them with traditional rhythms like the yela, which imitates the sound of women pounding millet."

Maal's albums have ranged from traditional Senegalese songs to Afro-Cuban funk, reggae (a later incarnation of yela), rap and jazz-rock

fusion. 1995's Simon Emmerson-produced, techno-heavy *Firin* in Fouta won a Grammy. He has collaborated with Celts Davy Spillane and Donal Lunny while managing to remain true to his Fulani roots, and recently lent his services to jazz and reggae guitarist Ernest Ranglin's new album *In Search of the Lost Riddim*. "When Ernie came to Senegal," says Maal, "Mansour Seck and I took our guitars and sat on the roof of my house with him. We played exceptional stuff all night long! It was there waiting to be together."

Maal's latest release, *Nomad Soul*, features the production skills of Emmerson, Brian Eno and Howie B, and guests including Jamaican reggae giant Luciano and Sinead

O'Connor's backing singers. The Screaming Orphans. "Irish music is not so far from traditional African music. In Senegal we feel that African and Irish are really the same people."

Maal wrote all the songs first, then brought in specialists to realise the potential of each. "In Africa," he smiles, "each song has a personality." Traditional instrumentation required the right programming skills; his exploding voice demanded special circumstances. "Many Western producers try and keep it down, which means you lose the spirit. Our songs have this special power, and there should be no difference between listening to the album and seeing us perform on stage."

Seeing him perform on stage is to experience an all-singing, all-dancing extravaganza of sound, colour and energy. A replica of a Senegalese village concert, with Maal, elevated to giant size in flapping, brightly-hued robes, at his helm. "If I was not a musician, I would be a designer," he says. "When I'm composing or standing on stage singing, I close my eyes and I see space. I see people, I see light. I see form. I see colours. These things are very important."

And when Maal the aesthete isn't surrounded by adoring minions, he likes to go clothes shopping. "I love Prada, but not just Western clothes. I design my own Senegalese robes. I choose the material and the colour

myself yellows, purples, indigos..." He rolls his eyes heavenwards. "Ahl," he exclaims. "You should see my bou bous."

While whoops from underneath us indicate that a goal's been scored in France, Maal becomes serious again. "I'm not deliberately seeking success in the West," he says, his voice growing louder. "It is just that Senegalese music is so energetic, so exciting and so important that we must not keep it for ourselves. I have something I must share with the world."

*'Nomad Souls'* is released on 6 July. Baaba Maal, with special guest Ernest Ranglin, plays the Royal Festival Hall, London on 13 July

### RIFFS

THE FIRST AND LAST RECORDS BOUGHT BY MONEY MARK, BEASTIE BOY AND MO'WAX SOLO ARTIST

**3 STOCKHAUSEN**  
I bought this Stockhausen album called 3. That was probably back in 1971, so long ago that I am not exactly sure when, but I remember that I had just started making money. I bought it from a thrift shop and it was very worn and beat up – I would often browse around those shops. I liked the album, it was kind of weird. I didn't think anyone else in the world was into it except me. It was *musique concrete*. It made me realise that everything was possible, you know. I will still listen to it now, but it is a CD version.

**X MARKS THE SPOT SESAME STREET**  
I bought a *Sesame Street* 45 called *X Marks The Spot* three days ago. I thought it would be cool. I just played it this morning and it does X, Y on one side and Z on the other side. The tune about X goes like, "you can see X on a bottle of poison or where the buried treasure could be". These records are just great for fun – they are happy – and for mucking around with in the recording studio. It goes all the way through the alphabet, and I have all of the alphabet now apart from Q and R. So, if anyone out there has that one...



Money Mark – he's A-OK Redferris



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**IAN DURY & THE BLOCKHEADS**

OUT NOW

**That bastion of male chauvinism, country music, is riding high in the charts. But it's a new generation of female artists who are leading the charge. By Andrew G Marshall**

While "Girl Power" from the Spice Girls has meant little more than shouting slogans, Mindy McCready has learnt first-hand how

It is not just female performers who have made the breakthrough. For the first time, there is a woman

"With women used as window dressing, they were never under the same scrutiny," says Evelyn Shriner, "so they have recorded the most significant songs of the last few years; the guys have been singing about trucks or love and ignoring the issues. Country music, by and large, got away from what made it interesting to begin with - a real reflection of the ordeal of day-to-day living. But the women are addressing socially significant issues like wife abuse. There is a lot of frustration and women by and large could appreciate a little more respect and responsibility and these

**Mindy McCready, the new star of women's country music and happy to take on Nashville's male-dominated establishment**

Female artists in Nashville are doing much better than the men who are stuck in that decade where everybody is wearing boots and a cowboy hat; making it hard to tell the difference between them. But the females are standing out, singing things differently and doing things differently from one another. Certainly in the UK we are responding to these women with their songs receiving twice as much air play than male artists. "The artists that have

Despite all the success, country women are still very cautious: "None of them will overtly or in any way call themselves a feminist," says Joanna Bailey, the director of Naked

Just how much further women country stars have to travel for equal treatment is revealed by comments from the President of MCA Records, Tony Brown, in *Naked Nashville*. He confesses: "They lav-

*'Naked Nashville'* is on Channel 4 on 11 July at 8pm. Mindy McCready's single 'Oh Romeo' is released on the same day.

## MARTIN NEWELL

## Georgie Fame then ...

This was in The Pink Flamingo  
 Down in Wardour Street  
 In a cellar for the hepcats  
 In the days of beat  
 With a northern kid on organ  
 Who they'd never seen  
 Jimmy Smith – or in the region  
 He was what ... nineteen?  
 As the Hammond's Leslie speaker  
 Slowly turning round  
 Like a coining-tower radar  
 Pumped the swirling sound  
 For the Modernists and villains  
 And the black GIs  
 Who would cloak the young pretender  
 Through their piled-up eyes  
 When they registered the texture  
 Of his foggy croon  
 As it rose above the organ  
 Like a shipyard moon  
 'Til the sound spilled up the stairway  
 In the smoky heat  
 Sipping into small hours silence  
 Via Gerrard Street  
 Past the posters on the brickwork  
 Reading "George Fame"  
 Which on crawling out they noticed  
 Was the new cat's name

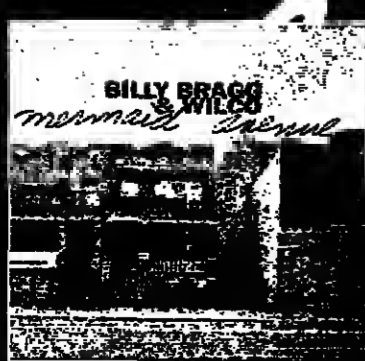


*'If I am the fourth, who is the third? It's a title that doesn't mean anything. In some papers I am the Fourth Tenor, in others it is Roberto Alagna, so who the hell is it really?'*

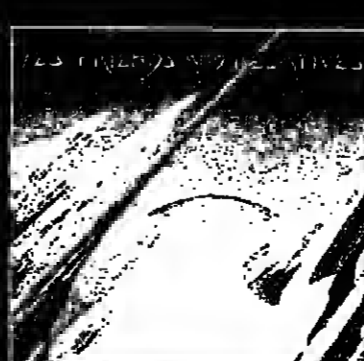
CLASSICAL MUSIC. PAGE 18



## Recommended releases.



**Billy Bragg & Wilco**  
**'Mermaid Avenue'**  
Billy Bragg joins forces with American rock band Wilco on a unique collaboration that sees them putting music to never-before-released lyrics from legendary American protest singer Woody Guthrie.



**'Friends And Relatives':** A superb double CD featuring highlights from the solo careers of individual members of Yo!, including a 1996 re-recording of *Owner Of A Lonely Heart* by Jon Anderson plus contributions from other distinguished Yes-men, including Rick Wakeman and Steve Howe.

# Parodies lost

Finally, Ben Folds sheds the mantle of the jolly japester and lets his songs speak for themselves. By Andrew Mueller



Ben Folds "spits and croons his songs with venom and poise"

Redferns

ON THE sleeve of *Naked Baby Photos*, Ben Folds Five's recent album of out-takes and live tracks, Folds writes that "London is one of the first places we really felt understood. Our shows there are usually at our best." The North Carolina-born Folds hasn't been part of enough chattering, yawning London audiences to realise that his band also bring out the best in this city. The three-piece Five receive an ear-splitting standing ovation for ambling on stage.

This hysteria has, on previous tours, been hard to fathom. Ben Folds Five appeared determined to undermine their songs with a delivery irritatingly like dim students pulling a wizard wheeze for rag week. Folds appeared an American equivalent of The Divine Comedy's Neil Hannon - a prodigiously talented writer, compelled, by embarrassment or lack of confidence, to scatter his art with whoopee cushions. Folds wrote genuinely funny lyrics - on "Song for the Dumped" he rendered pop's canon of overwrought love-gone-wrong songs pretty much redundant with the lines "Well, fuck you too / Give

me my money back, you bitch". But like Hannon he had trouble realising that you can be witty without turning yourself into a comedy act. The good news is that, just as Hannon seems to have figured this one out, Folds too has stopped laughing at himself. On the evidence of tonight's astonishing performance he's developed sufficient confidence in his material to let it sing for itself. He spits and croons his songs with the same venom and poise with which he batters and carresses his piano.

The Five's other two members, drummer Darren Jesse and bass player Robert Sledge, have blossomed into a mighty rhythm section, capable of the light touch necessary for "Brick" and the violence required by "One Angry Dwarf & 200 Solemn Faces". They're reminiscent of Elvis Costello's Attractions, and praise doesn't come higher than that.

Folds, at last, performs like what he is - one of the most refreshing talents to emerge from America in years. As a lyricist, he's as righteous and withering as peak form Jarvis Cocker - "The Battle of Who Could Care Less", with its cruel portraits of contemporaries wasting their youths watching repeats of Seventies cop shows through clouds of marijuana smoke, could be Pulp's "Common People" recast for the American grunge generation.

Folds' musical influences are obvious enough (Costello's *Armed Forces*, Joe Jackson's *Night & Day*), but a lot of his songs' emotional pull is down to the fact that he writes in not just what he's liked listening to, but what he's had to listen to. Many of Folds' harmonies and arrangements are cribbed from such inescapable MOR horrors as ELO and Chicago. These delicately woven elements of Folds' songs are as subtly affecting as hearing old television themes.

A great writer with a great voice backed by a great band on rare form - if they keep this up the screams of London will shortly echo around the world.

## POP

BEN FOLDS FIVE  
THE FORUM  
LONDON

## THIS WEEK'S ALBUM RELEASES

REVIEWED BY ANDY GILL

### CD CHOICE



HELLO NASTY  
BEASTIE BOYS  
(GRAND ROYAL)

IGNORING THE anachronistic hardcore punk EP *Aglio e Olio* - which is, frankly, the best policy to adopt regarding it - *Hello Nasty* is the Beasties' follow-up proper to 1994's sterling *III Communication*. It's a huge project, both in terms of sheer size - a whopping 22 tracks - and artistic scope, being the (il)logical culmination of the group's career, a strong and unified braiding of their various stylistic strands. It's also probably the first Buddhist rap album, with lines like "All this action, no satisfaction! We're all linked together like a chain reaction" reflecting the beliefs that led the Beasties to instigate last year's Tibetan Freedom Concerts. But where one might spiritual equanimity, *Hello Nasty* is heartily volitional, bulging with exuberance and attitude.

In part, it marks a return to old-school rap territory, with tracks like "Super Disco Breakin'" juggling the clichés about B-girls and B-boys rockin' on to the break of dawn over punchy breakbeats and dazzling bursts of scratching. "Three MCs and One DJ" extends the genre further, with Mixmaster Mike adding new moves to DJ methodology by attaching a wah-wah pedal to his turntable: the effect is such fun it draws involuntary gasps of laughter. The single "Intergalactic", meanwhile, links hip-hop's past to its future by punctuating the boys' pass-the-mic raps with a vocoder chorus straight out of the Daft Punk portfolio of quacking synth sounds. The most significant difference between *Hello Nasty* and previous Beasties albums, though, is the

vastly increased role of keyboardist Mark Ramos-Nishita, who as well as continuing to put flesh on the band's bare-bones funk workouts, also brings much of his solo album's appealing diversity to a track like "Song for the Man": the result sounds like nothing so much as Frank Zappa doing lounge music with a message. With such an array of talent at their disposal, the album groans with potential singles, from the twitching funk sway of "Flowin' Prose" to the classic rap contours of "Remote Control", the latter a call to action which one might have thought contravened the more acquiescent of Buddhist principles: "Remote control to change the station! But that won't change your situation". Couch spuds, unite and fight for your rights!



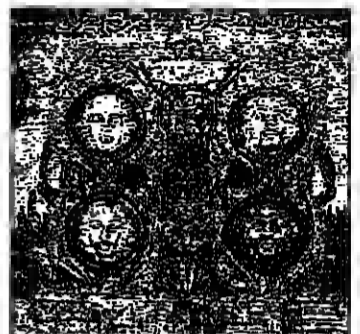
NOMAD SOUL  
BAABA MAAL  
(ISLAND PALM PICTURES PALMCO02002)



ENGLAND MADE ME  
BLACK BOX RECORDER  
(CHRYSALIS 01493 9072)



TERRITORY  
ALVIN YOUNGBLOOD HART  
(HANNIBAL HNCD 1431)



WAYZ OF THE DRAGON  
VARIOUS ARTISTS  
(DOPE DRAGON DORAGCDLP011)

STYLISH AND sophisticated, *Nomad Soul* is the album which should finally see Baaba Maal assume the kind of global reputation enjoyed by few African artists other than Youssou N'Dour. Building on the crossover style developed with Afro-Celt Sound System's Simon Emmerson for 1995's *Firin' In Fouta*, the album features a more diverse selection of producers that includes such as Paul "Groucho" Sztybel, Mykael S Riley, Brian Eno, Jon Hassell and Howie B, alongside Emmerson himself.

The results are as varied as that suggests, though all the tracks capture the infectious combination of propulsion and light at the heart of Maal's work. "Africans Unite" is typical, a gentle groove on which low humming carries a duet with reggae star Luciano. "Souka Nayo" is reminiscent of earlier Emmerson productions, with kora, shaker and horn punctuation animating an ambient keyboard drone. Elsewhere, "Yiriyaro" features complex layers of percussion, and "Mbolo" a great dipping, sliding groove of mysterious weightlessness. The atmosphere throughout is utterly charming, especially on "Fanta", a twinkling, effervescent slice of Afro-pop just begging to spearhead an international ad campaign.

IN ITS air of exquisitely desiccated futility, *Black Box Recorder*'s debut album captures the feel of contemporary England better than any other band I've heard. *England Made Me* is the product of auteurs auteur Luke Haines and former Jesus & Mary Chain drummer John Moore, who have drafted in vocalist Sarah Nixey to give the appropriately apathetic air to their pale, etiolated songs of sex, death, boredom, crime and repression. The result is like a drained St Etienne, pop culture enervated and dissipated through its distance.

There's a stately sadism to a song like the title-track, whose protagonist progresses from insect-torturing to recreational murder yet retains an ambivalent attitude, both apologetic and proud, towards their country. Elsewhere, Haines & Moore sneak a little admirable cynicism into the disturbing "Child Psychology" and watch, mystified, from the sidelines as the nation convulses with sentiment over a dead princess in "I. C. One Female". For chilling impact, however, nothing beats their dry, disengaged version of "Uptown Top Ranking", in which the Althea & Donna reggae-pop hit gets the full Flying Lizards treatment. Nixey's posh tones tacking primly round the patois lyrics.

ALVIN YOUNGBLOOD Hart's debut *Big Mama's Door* swept blues critics' polls, and won him the WC Handy Award as Best New Artist of last year. This follow-up finds the much-travelled young bluesman broadening his style, revealing a much deeper, richer vein of talent than first appeared.

The country blues is still well represented through Bukka White's "Mama Don't Allow" and a fluid, haunting version of Skip James's "Illinois Blues", but Hart also offers his own take on punchy blue-beat ("Just About to Go") and Rudy Vallee croon ("Dancing With Tears In My Eyes"), and even whips up a Bob Wills-style Western Swing number, "Tallacatcha", complete with fiddle and yodelling. And somewhere amid all this genre-hopping, he manages to make light work of the peculiar angularities of Captain Beethart's "Ice Rose". Impressive isn't the word.

It's his acoustic guitar work that remains Hart's forte, however, particularly on "Ouachita Run", and the concluding instrumental reverie "Underway at Seven", a musical memoir of his time spent working on the Mississippi riverboats. His is a huge talent, which one hopes Hannibal can handle more sympathetically than his previous label Epic.

THE ELABORATE packaging - a miniature comic-book - of *Wayz of the Dragon* effectively betrays the largely tedious nature of the musical contents it is attempting to tart up, which have all the depth and characterisation of the average comic or computer game. The product of Roni Size & DJ Krust's Dope Dragon label, the album features an average of two tracks of busy dance-floor jungle apiece from Mask, Swabe, Gang Related, 3 Way, Mad Professor and Bigga Star - though even their mothers would be hard pushed to tell them apart, so little personal signature is there to any of the eleven "individual" tracks. It's as if they've all been sliced off one enormous, catering-size loaf of drum 'n' bass.

The tiny sonic details used in an attempt to lend character seem half-hearted and token, or too obvious, like the combination of a quote from *Prisoner* and that "ka-ding, ka-ding" noise a modern makes when it's configuring itself, both of which feature on Bigga Star's "Information". All these jungle technicians seem to want is to display the same drum sounds, the same tempo, and the same wheezing bass sound as each other. They are not free men, they are just numbers programmed into a machine.

## THE CHARTS

### TOP 10 UK SINGLES

TITLE	ARTIST
1 <b>Three Lions '98</b>	Baddiel, Skinner
2 <b>Vindaloo</b>	Fat Les
3 <b>Ghetto Supastar</b>	Pras Michel
4 <b>C'est La Vie</b>	B*Witched
5 <b>Got The Feelin'</b>	Five
6 <b>Horny</b>	Mousse T
7 <b>Carnaval De Paris</b>	Dario G
8 <b>Lost In Space</b>	Lighthouse Family
9 <b>The Boy Is Mine</b>	Brandy & Monica
10 <b>Looking For Love</b>	Karen Ramirez

### TOP 10 INDIE ALBUMS

TITLE	ARTIST
1 <b>Life Won't Wait</b>	Rancid
2 <b>Big Calm</b>	Morcheeba
3 <b>Version 2.0</b>	Garbage
4 <b>Tin Planet</b>	Space
5 <b>Garbage</b>	Garbage
6 <b>How To Operate</b>	Lo-Fidelity Allstars
7 <b>People Move On</b>	Bernard Butler
8 <b>Word Gets Around</b>	Stereophonics
9 <b>In My Life</b>	George Martin
10 <b>N'Dea Davenport</b>	N'Dea Davenport

### TOP 10 UK ALBUMS

TITLE	ARTIST
1 <b>Talk On Corners</b>	The Corrs
2 <b>Blue</b>	Simply Red
3 <b>When We Were...</b>	Rod Stewart
4 <b>Live Thru A Lens</b>	Robbie Williams
5 <b>Five</b>	Five
6 <b>The Good Will Out</b>	Embrace
7 <b>Postcards From Heaven</b>	Lighthouse Family
8 <b>Urban Hymns</b>	The Verve
9 <b>My Way - The Best Of</b>	Frank Sinatra
10 <b>Left Of The Middle</b>	Natalie Imbruglia

### TOP 10 INDIE SINGLES

TITLE	ARTIST
1 <b>Naked In The Rain '98</b>	Blue Pearl
2 <b>The Rockafeller Skank</b>	Fatboy Slim
3 <b>Begin Again</b>	Space
4 <b>Surfin' USA</b>	Aaron Carter
5 <b>Feel It</b>	Tamperer feat. Maya
6 <b>Nagasaki Badger</b>	Disco Citizens
7 <b>Do For Love</b>	2Pac
8 <b>Shorty</b>	Imalin feat. Keith Murray
9 <b>Last Thing On My Mind</b>	Steps
10 <b>Happenin' All Over Again</b>	Tracy Shaw

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'Archive 1967-1975'...  
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# The great tenor pretenders

Is Jose Cura the Fourth Tenor? He doesn't care. After all, he's not one of the Spice Girls. By Michael Quinn

I f I think of it as only a media cliché to explain who the hell and what the hell I am, it's OK. It's only two words, after all. It saves time and ink. But if you analyse it intelligently? Well, to be a tenor is not a Formula One race. What the hell is it to be the first, second, third or fourth?

Jose Cura is not a man you want to cross. Weighing in at a solid 100 kilos and standing over six feet tall, he cuts an intimidating figure. All the more so as you quietly remind yourself of his one-time career as a rugby prop-forward, his predilection for body-building and the Kung Fu black belt that hangs in a wardrobe somewhere. So the matter of his unsought media appellation is not a subject to brook without due care. That papers and magazines across the globe, desperate to find a successor to the fast-aging Pavarotti-Domingo-Carreras triumvirate, have taken to anointing Cura the "Fourth Tenor" with almost Messianic fervour, is clearly an irritant the young Argentinian is determined to tackle before it gets out of hand.

"If I am the fourth, who is the third, the second or the first? It's a title that doesn't mean anything. In some newspapers I am the 'Fourth Tenor', in others it is Roberto Alagna, so who the hell is it really?"

Despite his protestations, Cura seems somehow destined to court

*I am just another musician who has been working hard since the age of 14. It's not that they found me with a nice voice singing in a pizzeria and all of a sudden I'm the first tenor of the world. It's not a miracle*

comparisons with the Big Three. He shares a birthday with Carreras for a start, and he shot to international fame by winning Domingo's International Operalia Competition in 1994. His first solo recital disc, last year's collection of Puccini arias on the Erato label – which, he is quick to point out, sold a rather remarkable 150,000 copies in five months – was conducted by Domingo. Recently he staked a very considerable claim for the most testing role in the tenor repertoire, that of Verdi's Otello. Even so, he refuses to accept too glib a comparison with his elders, Domingo in particular. In any case, adamant that he is primarily "an actor who sings rather than a singer who pretends to act", he insists his art owes as much to Orson Welles and to Olivier as to any operatic lineage.

"The real point is that I cannot be part of a group of people who are in a position I won't be in for another 30 years. It's a question of age. I'm flattered enough to know that people like Domingo and Carreras have said that I am not the fourth anything, that I'm a young artist who must be considered by himself."

And there the attempts at comparison end. "I am just another musician who has been working hard since I was 14 to get to where I am now. It's not that they found me with a nice voice singing in a pizzeria and all of a sudden I'm the first tenor of the world. It's not a miracle, not a media result, not a Spice Girls' phenomenon. It wasn't Hollywood that got me here, it was hard work."

If all that makes Cura seem somewhat precious, it is to miss the real charm of the man; his absolute

lack of affectation and the obvious and impressive dedication to his art. It is also to forget that, despite his recent elevation to celebrity status, the 35-year-old tenor is no overnight sensation. In brute reality, he is a weathered veteran with an already long career behind him. Evidence of such is the two dozen roles firmly in his repertoire, a tally he is adding to with the fervour of a collector rather than a performer. "When the only means you have to pay your bills and put food on the table is making music, you learn to be professional about it from an early age. I've been doing that for eighteen years. It makes a difference."

His latest recording project, *Anhele* (I Wish), is a disc of traditional Argentinian songs which he himself has arranged, sings and conducts. "It's a nice sound, I think, very original, completely new. Nobody expected that my voice could sound that way."

Surprisingly hypnotic, with lush but well-proportioned orchestrations and a vocal contribution that is harmonically richer and more varied than anything he has yet done, it raises the issue of the tenor's identity away from the opera stage and recording studio. He is proud, he says, of his Argentinian heritage, but it doesn't define or confine him. Trace the family lineage back and a distinctly European accent takes hold. "I'm quarter-Italian, quarter-Spanish and half-Lebanese. So, does that make me more Mediterranean than Argentinian?"

As a putative Ambassador for Unicef – the invitation has been issued, he has yet to formally accept it – Cura is currently beginning to weave together the hitherto separate sides of his persona – "The musician and the human being" – for the benefit of others. It is, he acknowledges, one of the advantages of fame. "All of a sudden people seem to have the time to stop and listen to what I have to say. It's a real opportunity to engage myself socially with things in order to do something for other people."

He puts his preaching into practice in London this week with a headlining opera gala appearance at the Guildhall in aid of the breast cancer charity, Cancerkin. Cura has two very personal reasons to support the charity. "My mother had breast cancer in 1983 when treatment was not so advanced as now, so it was a difficult time. She's fine and well now, but I know what an ordeal it is to go through that. Because of that – and because a friend of mine, who is also one of the gala's organisers, also had to cope with cancer of the breast – there wasn't any way I couldn't be involved in this." Supporting him are the Alistair Dawes-led Philharmonia Orchestra and the young Italian soprano Daniela Dessi, the services of all concerned being given for free. "Everyone is there for nothing," Cura underlines, "which means that every penny will be going to Cancerkin to pay for research and treatment and education and care."

For his growing legions of British fans, the Gala, complete with champagne reception and dinner prepared by Anton Mosimann, offers an all too rare chance to hear Cura live in London. After a three-date *Carmen* at the Barbican in mid-July, he disappears from the capital until well into the new millennium. When he eventually returns who knows what we can expect.

"Every day of my career seems to make such an enormous difference now. More importantly, there are other projects besides Cancerkin and Unicef, but I have to be careful not to make myself sound like a saint. I know just how far away from that I really am!"

*The Cancerkin Opera Gala is at the Guildhall on 6 July. Box office: 0171 830 2773. The concert performance of Carmen is at the Barbican Theatre, 12, 15 and 17 July. Box office: 0171 638 8891. Jose Cura's CD Anhele is out on Erato*



Jose Cura (above) and Roberto Alagna: rivals who are equally passionate about their work



Roberto Alagna is the other tip to join Pavarotti and Co. He's got the voice – and the glamour. By Nick Kimberley

G ranted the chance to interview Roberto Alagna and Angela Gheorghiu, I feel as though I have been thrown to the lions. I am the one who has to watch what I say, for fear of putting opera's most glamorous couple on the defensive.

We talk outdoors on a moderately bright afternoon, and both Alagna and Gheorghiu are wearing dark glasses (which they keep on throughout our conversation). It may not be a tactic to keep the journalist at bay, but any eye contact is strictly one-way. And as if I am not nervous enough already, Alagna, barely concealing the sneer in his voice, answers my first question with a peremptory: "You think that is interesting?"

Well, they cannot be expected to make life easy, especially since much of what gets written about them is steeped in gossip and rumour. When they married in 1995, some suggested that it was merely a cynical career strategy, and in the intervening years, every move they have made has been subjected to close scrutiny, both musically and, especially, extra-musically, and journalists have gleefully seized every opportunity to take pot shots at Alagna (most frequently) and Gheorghiu (less frequently).

Fortunately, after the uncomfortable opening, the atmosphere lightens, and as long as I stick to musical matters, conversation flows smoothly. Alagna takes the lead, with the less loquacious Gheorghiu amplifying his points, completing his sentences, and occasionally providing an answer of her own. Of course, it is a performance – interviews always are – but it seems a natural one, born of trust rather than from a perceived need to present a united front.

When I ask about the press coverage they've received, Alagna replies philosophically, "I don't know: everything is fiction... when you read some of these stories for the first time, it is a little embarrassing, but after five minutes you forget about it. Sometimes it is ridiculous, but they have to sell newspapers, I suppose, and whether it is good or bad, we can't control it. When you have a success, you get this kind of thing all the time. We're not the first, we won't be the last. We just have to be relaxed about it."

Although their names are now indissolubly linked, Gheorghiu points out that "To begin with, it was just a coincidence that our contracts had us singing together. We were lucky, we sang the same repertoire, in the same theatres, at the same level. We wouldn't have met otherwise." Alagna remembers that first meeting with evident pleasure: "I was booked to sing in *La Bohème* at Covent Garden. I turned up at the rehearsal room for the first time and through the door I heard this voice singing 'Mi chiamano Mimì'. I fell in love with the voice, then when I opened the door, I fell in love with the woman who had the voice – it was Angela. As far as working together goes, it helps that we are tenor and soprano. It would be more difficult if I were a baritone. Of course, it's not an obligation that we sing together, but if I have to sing Alfredo in *La Traviata*, I'm crazy if I choose to sing with another soprano when I have the best at home... it's like Fred Astaire and Ginger Rogers: he could dance with other women, but it was something stronger with her. On stage, we talk to each other: 'Was that phrase OK?' 'Yeah, sure, it was good.' We get results immediately. That is not possible with other singers."

Now the hall is back in Gheorghiu's court: "Sometimes, when I talk to colleagues about this or that phrase, they'll say 'Excuse me, that's not my business – do it your own way.' It is not the same with Robert. But mostly you find that singers are prepared with

the same modern ideas, so working as a team is not so difficult as it used to be." Perhaps aware that they don't have a reputation as the most flexible collaborators, Alagna adds: "If you want a wonderful performance, you need all the ingredients: orchestra, chorus, all the cast, the lighting, the staging. It's a big team."

We move on to discuss Verdi arias. One commentator has suggested that he can only manage all this material, which includes the role of Otello, one of the toughest assignments in the tenor repertoire, with the help of studio trickery. Alagna rejects the suggestion: "Everybody says, 'Alagna's crazy. Otello is too heavy for him. It'll finish him off,' but my teacher Raphael Ruiz had me singing it every day for four or five years, from when I was 17 years old: it was his favourite role. There are so many voice categories today, but composers didn't say, 'I want a lyric tenor here, a dramatic tenor there.' They said, 'I want a tenor'. These days, you have one tenor for *La Bohème*, another for *L'Elisir d'Amore*."

"Tomorrow we'll have one singer for Act One, another for Act Two..." says Gheorghiu. Might there then, I suggest, be the possibility of Alagna moving on to Wagner? Alagna foresees no problem: "The difficulty is with the orchestra. If you have a careful conductor, you can sing anything, but if you have a conductor who isn't prudent, you can

*When you have a problem with the voice, it's always a problem with the nerves: if a singer can speak he can sing. The problem is you lose your spontaneity. You have to be happy. We make love*

sing *L'Elisir*, and even that will be too heavy for you. The problem now is that people think that after you've sung the Italian and French repertoire, then OK, the voice is finished, so you sing Wagner, but remember that singers like Jussi Björling and Nicolai Gedda sang Wagner beautifully."

The couple's plans include performances of Leoncavallo's *I Pagliacci*, which, as Alagna points out, "is about the relationship between theatre and reality, and you can certainly transpose that in our life. That makes, it's very interesting, and maybe it's exciting for the audience that I will have to kill the character Angela is singing, because I'm jealous. Perhaps because we are a real couple, people participate more when we sing these sad operas together: that kind of complicity is important in the theatre. You might say that between us, we are three artists: Angela Gheorghiu solo, Roberto Alagna solo, and then there is the couple."

By the end of our hour, Alagna and Gheorghiu seem reasonably relaxed. Asked how he deals with vocal problems, Alagna replies, "When you have a problem with the voice, it's always a problem of nerves: if a singer can speak, he can sing. The problem is sometimes you lose your spontaneity." How do you rediscover it, I ask. "You have to be happy," he responds, "and what we do is, we make love."

*Roberto Alagna and Angela Gheorghiu sing in Gounod's Romeo et Juliette (EMI 5 56123 2); Alagna's Verdi Arias is also available on EMI (5 56567 2)*

## The best way to put new music in the picture

I RECALL, with affection, if also with a certain exasperation, Pierre Boulez's TV programmes in the 1960s about some of the more difficult works of that time. Music would appear on the screen with indications of what we should be listening out for, as Boulez's idiosyncratic English reinforced the rather arcane atmosphere. Did the programme makers really think this was going to convert the doubters and conservatives, or were they preaching to the converted? It was all a little mysterious, but at least it was taking 20th century

music seriously and with a passionate zeal. Little has happened since then to indicate that television has any appreciation of the cutting edge of modern music, or possess the will to widen the audience for it.

All the more reason to welcome the Lloyds Bank Young Composers' workshop, broadcast on BBC2 last Sunday as part of the BBC Young Musician 98 series. Maybe it was not the classic work of our time which we were examining – dare we hope that this too will happen some day, but under the currently acceptable

hammer of youthful music activity we were being offered a serious treatment of new music composition, with Martyn Brabbins and the BBC Philharmonic playing the pieces of five lively young composers, ranging in age from 16 to 25, who had been chosen by Brabbins and workshop leaders James MacMillan and Judith Bingham.

In an hour-long programme there was never going to be enough time to dig deep into the pieces or play extended excerpts, but broad issues were debated which would have been of inter-

### ON AIR ANTHONY PAYNE

est not only to other young composers but also to the general music lover. The computer as a compositional aid was welcomed with laudable caution, while the strain for the inexperienced composer facing searching questions about wrong notes, markings, interpretation etc, and being expected to come out with immediate answers, was painfully focused. Then there was the difference between what a composer has in his head and what

emerges from the orchestra in live sound, which also caused productive anxiety – not a matter of making mistakes, this, but rather of coming to terms with the reality of what has been dreamed.

In fact this was a good outing for contemporary music, but it will take the complete performances of the pieces on BBC Radio 3 on July 14th to fill in the picture. It remains to add that all the composers, Thom Petty, Tom Young, Karen Smith, Nathan Rose, Fraser Maitland, have been further commissioned by

the BBC on the strength of this showing.

Meanwhile on Radio 3's *The BBC Archive* Chris De Souza presented a portrait of Benjamin Frankel, focusing on the composer's many-faceted activities in film and light as well as symphonic music. It was marred only by a production gremlin which substituted a sequence of pleasant but merely functional background music for the enchanting *Corriège and Fear* from the film *So Long At The Fair* which De Souza announced. In fact, *Corriège and Fear* would have

shown Frankel's extraordinary gift for a kind of haunting lyricism which does not always get into his more serious scores, noble and impressive though they often are, and this would have enriched the portrait.

Finally, *Private Passions*: Chris Smith assured Michael Berkeley that New Labour would be funding difficult music appealing to minority audiences just as assiduously as it would popular work. I hope he meant it: composers and ensembles will be watching, eagle-eyed.

# Mood swings at the supermarket

## RECORD ROUND-UP

PHIL JOHNSON

IN WHAT counts as a new first for one-stop shopping, you can now buy jazz albums on the same label as your underwear. Yes, Marks and Spencer has entered the jazz retail market with the release of three compilation albums on its own St Michael label. While the imprint might not have the hip clout of Blue Note or Verve (from whose catalogues most of the tracks are taken), it certainly has high street visibility on its side, and it can't have escaped the attention of M&S that such compilation albums regularly top the jazz charts.

In fact, the jazz charts, such as they are, consist almost entirely of similar, carefully themed, collections of more or less the same tracks by more or less the same artists, reshuffled endlessly into new packages and marketed as a kind of subtle lifestyle enhancer. Got a hot date tonight? Then stick on "Late Night Jazz" as a little light seduction aid just as the coffee starts to filter through. Has that sunlight glinting through the window started to get you thinking wistfully about the sensual promise of hot summer nights? Bung "Summer Jazz" on the CD and let Astrud Gilberto or Sade lull you into tropical torpor. Feeling a bit downhearted about that failed love affair or job interview? Take solace in "Jazz Depression", a selection of pleasingly maudlin ballads sponsored by the Samaritans. Got an existential itch that just can't be scratched? Try "Dead Junkie Jazz", and immediately feel that things maybe aren't quite as bad as you feared after all.

The first three M&S collections are Classic Jazz, Summer Jazz and Late Night Jazz, but the tracks could be permuted differently and the

collections would still sound pretty much the same. The contents of the mid-price releases have been compiled very tastefully, and classic recordings from the usual big names (Ella, Billie, Nat, Ellington, Bird, Diz and the like), and with the usual emphasis on vocals, have been mixed with some lesser-known tracks by lesser-known artists. Only the appearance of catalogue-filler material by the likes of Dianne Reeves and Oleta Adams lets the good M&S name down, although the inclusion of that well-known Welsh bugle player Miles Davies may well point to a proof-reading error. If only one impulse buyer gets the unexpected thrill of hearing Peggy Lee sing "The Folks Who Live On The Hill", then M&S's brave initiative can be counted as a success, in aesthetics if not in sales. But if other tracks don't fit, can you take them back?

The best new jazz album of the month is probably Thimar by Anouar Brahm on the ECM label, whose imprint rivals M&S as a sure sign of quality in the marketplace. Brahm is an Arabic oud player, and on this set his remarkable virtuosity is partnered by the improvisations of Englishmen Dave Holland on double bass and John

Surman on soprano saxophone and bass clarinet. The result is contemplative yet intensely rhythmic music in which Holland and Surman somehow contrive to sound surprisingly Arabic, while in turn Brahm swings most convincingly, emphasising that jazz's African roots were themselves partly derived from Arabic sources.

Three outstanding re-releases (a form that increasingly comes a close second to the thematic compilation in the charts) have also just

become available. Motion by Lee Konitz (Verve, CD), is a reissue of the sometimes forbiddingly cerebral alto saxophonist's trio album of 1961, with Elvin Jones on drums and Sonny Dallas on bass, together with an additional two CDs of hitherto unreleased tracks from the sessions. Konitz's elegant improvisations on the repertoire of standards are beautifully light and airy, and the unfettered approach to melody (probably influenced by Ornette Coleman) anticipates his later, intensely personalised, version of freeform jazz.

Monk Alone by Thelonious Monk (Columbia Legacy, 2 CDs) is a reissue of Monk's complete solo piano recordings for CBS. Though perhaps less important than his

1950s output for the Prestige label, these are still amongst the greatest and most idiosyncratic recordings in all of jazz, and come complete with 14 previously unreleased takes. As well as the (surprisingly few) original compositions, there are numerous Monkian re-workings of standards like "Body and Soul" and "Memories of You", all delivered in a style so spare that you could almost drive a Cadillac through the space between the notes.

Cross Country Tour 1958-1961 by the Ahmad Jamal Trio (Chess, 2 CDs), is a reissue of the Philadelphia pianist's legendary Live at the Pershing album of 1958 - a big hit in its day - with the Chicago club set complemented by further live recordings from Washington and San Francisco.



Anouar Brahm, an old maestro who can still swing

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Money is not a problem when US firms recruit. Traditional British loyalty is. By Linda Tsang



Moni Mannings, a UK partner at Dewey Ballantine: 'The perception of those outside the US firms is that you are worked into the ground'

Nicola Kurtz

## The Americans have landed, and they're here to stay

THE MEDIA image of American lawyers – less *Ally McBeal* and more *LA Law*, but with New York salaries – has been confirmed by the publication of the profits per partner of the top New York law firms.

The *American Lawyer* report showed that Wachtell Lipton Rosen & Katz has annual profits of \$2.2m per partner, and Craveth Swaine & Moore \$1.79m. In comparison, it is estimated that at the more successful of the London firms, such as Slaughter & May, Allen & Overy and Linklaters & Paines, annual profits are around £500,000 per partner.

From an American lawyer's perspective, Jeff Gordon, the US head of the London office of the Chicago-based law firm Mayer Brown & Platt, says: "In the main, there are a lot more similarities between the two countries, and that includes the money, but there are cultural differences in the way US and English lawyers work. For example, a US partner may spend 10 hours in the office and bill the client for eight, whereas a UK lawyer working for a London firm may also spend 10 hours in the office, but bill five."

There is also a difference between the hourly rates charged. At the top end, for a US law firm, \$550 (£375) is one of the highest rates charged, whereas in a London City firm, partners at the top end may charge up to £475 an hour. But Gordon adds that general-

ly, in terms of pricing, US and UK firms are not all that different. The perception is that US firms expect their lawyers to have higher billing hour targets. For example, it is thought not uncommon for both partners and associates and assistants to bill 2000 hours a year, whereas a London firm, might expect 1,400-1,600 hours a year. But this "is not always a fair view – some firms find a compromise by charging more than they would in the US, but the targets are lower."

Some US firms, especially those in New York, are much more profitable than their London counterparts, so can afford to pay "top dollar" for the best people. For example, one US firm in London pays its first-year qualified assistants £60,000, whether UK or US-qualified, almost twice what the top five London law firms pay. A junior partner in London will probably be on £200,000-£300,000; his or her equivalent in a top five New York firm may receive about 30 per cent more.

Moni Mannings, a UK partner at Dewey Ballantine in New York, who has seen both sides of the divide, comments: "The perception of those outside the US firms is that you are worked into the ground because the billable hour and chargeable recovery rate are the main goals; the London firms are considered more 'civilised' compared with the dog-eat-dog culture of US firms. In amongst all the stereotyping is the fact that ultimately, with almost 70 US firms with London offices, and about 375 UK lawyers working for them, US firms are not going to go away, and they are serious competition in certain areas of the legal market."

She adds that the move to work for a US law firm does not mean changing to a fundamentally different practice – "but there is a more businesslike environment and a much more meritocratic and pioneering culture".

As to the attraction of the money, Mannings says that it obviously makes what can be seen as a risky career move easier to make, but there may be problems if the move is motivated solely by

the money. And not all moves mean more money. Maurice Allen, who, as a partner at the London firm Clifford Chance, set up the New York law firm Weil Gotshal & Manges' London office in 1996 after a brief sabbatical, is on record as saying that he took the job for less money than he was offered.

The office now has 59 UK lawyers out of a total of 71. He agrees that money is always dangled as a carrot for UK lawyers and that that must be the only reason to switch, but "six- and seven-figure salaries depend on how good the lawyer is at cutting a good deal. Telephone number salaries across the board and having to record thousands of billable hours are two of the great myths."

It is seen to be in the interests of the targeted top five London firms for those myths to be perpetuated. Weil Gotshal has just poached one of Clifford Chance's top billers, the corporate finance partner Mike Francies, who is thought to have billed £3m for the firm last year.

Another US firm, Cadwalader Wickersham & Taft, has also tempted the partner Andrew Wilkinson to its London office, also from Clifford Chance.

But moves by UK lawyers to US firms have not always been entirely successful. The New York firm Chadbourne & Parke advertised its intentions to make an impact on London with an advertisement in 1996 offering

£700,000 a year, which attracted applications from lawyers working for the leading London firms Freshfields and Ashurst Morris Crisp.

In a very short time, one partner had left to join the London firm Cameron McKenna and two other lawyers had joined the New York firm Akn Gump Strauss Hauer and Feld, and Ian Johnson (who was at Ashursts) has now joined Orrick Herrington & Sutcliffe.

As another Britpack partner comments: "The fact that three of the four lawyers went to other US firms shows that US firms are not all the same, and are still an attractive option. The problem that Chadbourne had was with their particular strategy in setting up in London, not with being a US firm." The inevitable conclusion is that the differences are more apparent than real, but they can be overcome – as Maurice Allen, of Weil Gotshal, says:

"The English tend to perpetuate the image of a brilliant amateur overlaid with innate conservatism, so Americans do not understand why English partners stay with a firm. It is usually through intense loyalty, even if they would do better elsewhere."

So it may be that, as their American colleagues celebrate their own Independence Day this weekend, so will the Britpack, buoyed by the entrepreneurial and pioneering spirit which their American cousins have imported to London – and, of course, the money.

## Thinking more about divorce not may help

OUR  
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WILLIAM LONGRIGG

IT WAS stated on Monday by the Lord Chancellor that the Government was fully committed to implementing Part II of the 1996 Family Law Act, and the word on the street is that implementation is likely to happen in mid-2000.

The Family Law Act 1996 presents the greatest challenge to the practice of family law since 1969. It brings in (among other matters) the concept of no-fault divorce and imposes upon the individual an obligatory period for "reflection and consideration".

With 300,000 people contemplating divorce each year, it is worth considering how this element of the new Act will affect family lawyers and those seeking matrimonial advice. Under the current law, there is one ground for divorce – irretrievable breakdown of the marriage – and that may be proved by one of five facts: adultery, unreasonable behaviour, desertion, two years' separation or five years' separation.

A divorce on adultery or behaviour can take as little as three months. Arrangements for children and finance essentially run alongside the divorce process, but remain relatively independent. For example, under the current law it is quite possible to obtain the final decree before financial matters have been sorted out between the parties.

Under the Family Law Act 1996, the position will be quite different. The ground for divorce remains irretrievable breakdown, but the five "facts" have gone. Take a couple, Richard and Susan, who have children aged seven and five. They are both unhappy and they have agreed that, after 10 years, the marriage is over. They could get a relatively quick divorce on behaviour (and they could agree the particulars between themselves) or adultery, if appropriate.

Under the 1996 Act, either or both of them will have to attend an information meeting before they can even consider issuing proceedings. The idea is that the couple is obliged to hear about the options open to them before they launch into divorce proceedings. All very well in theory, but will it work?

After the information session, three more months must elapse before either party – or both – may issue a statement of marital breakdown.

But even then, Richard and Susan have to wait a further 15 months (it would have been nine months, but for the children) before they can get a divorce. This is known as "the period for reflection and consideration". (In a case where the wife has an exclusion order against the husband, and has moved her

lover into the former matrimonial home, and the husband has broken in and taken the TV, video and hi-fi, the inadequacy of the expression "period for reflection and consideration" becomes apparent.) The divorce will not be granted after the 15-month period (18 months from the information session) unless the children and the finances have been sorted out.

Broadly, family law practitioners welcome the new Act, but with important reservations. While they applaud the concept of no-fault divorce (the concept of fault often causes unnecessary acrimony), they are not so happy about the period of reflection and consideration, or the information meetings.

The theory is fine: consider the options before taking the final step, and do not imagine that it will happen quickly. But in reality almost everyone has thought long and hard about divorce before seeking professional help. The thinking behind the Family Law Act is, understandably, a wish to save money. Marriage guidance may obviate the need for divorce, and mediation provides an alternative to litigation. Most people can make their own minds up and will be surprised when they find that the process takes 18 months, and that they will be "interviewed" to see whether divorce is appropriate.

For the practitioner, as with any new legislation, the Act would inevitably lead to more work. What this Lord Chancellor and his predecessor need to understand is that most solicitors practising in the area of family law have already taken on board the desirability of bringing matters to an amicable conclusion. The bill for legal aid is high because, for many people, divorce is inevitable, not because they are rushing into it without thinking, or because the lawyers are dragging the cases out to increase their costs.

William Longrigg is a partner at Charles Russell

### IN BRIEF

ALMOST ONE in every three solicitors in England and Wales had a formal complaint lodged against them in 1997. Complaints against barristers are also rising – almost one in 20 barristers had a formal complaint made against them in the same period. The figures were released in the first annual report of the Legal Services Ombudsman, Ann Abraham. She said that the body responsible for handling the solicitors complaints "is probably doing everything that it can at the moment. What I don't think is that solicitors are doing everything they can at the moment."

THE LORD CHANCELLOR Lord Irvine of Lairg has outlined his proposals to crack down on City fraud which involves solicitors. His proposals include an option for a newly created body to examine any misconduct charges against solicitors, which could take over from the Solicitors Disciplinary Tribunal. Lord Irvine said: "The first option is simple and allows for the element of expert scrutiny. The case for a single body to be responsible for the judging and grading of the many degrees of wrongdoing following the jury's decision on criminal liability is also strong."

CITY FIRM Gouldens acted for former director John Gunn in the longest-running director disqualification case. The court case lasted more than three years with the judge eventually ruling that the former director of the British & Commonwealth Holdings was fit to be involved in the management of the company. Mr Gunn's battle to disprove the Department of Trade & Industry's allegation that he was unfit to be concerned in the management of the company following its acquisition of Atlantic Computers lasted nearly 10. This was the first such case to come to trial in relation to a listed company.

BRITISH AIRWAYS has recruited the barrister who represented the budget airline EasyJet, which has claimed that BA is trying to drive it out of business with its Go subsidiary. Leading aviation barrister Robert Webb QC, of 5 Bell Yard chambers, will join BA as its general counsel in September. Mr Webb also represented Virgin Atlantic airlines in its "dirty tricks" case against BA, and has also represented BA previously.

LINDA TSANG

## 'Serious flaws' floor the SFO

Even reorganisation and restructuring have failed to convince lawyers that the fraud office is a good thing. By Robert Verkaik

THE RELATIONSHIP between the legal profession and the Serious Fraud Office (SFO) hit rock bottom in May when the Government paid out £27,500 to solicitors who were badly treated by their counterparts in the SFO.

A High Court judge described the case – in which a solicitor was falsely accused of money-laundering, had his home raided and had thousands of privileged documents taken – as "seriously flawed". The SFO was popularly lampooned as the "Seriously Flawed Office" for a string of cases in which high-profile defendants have escaped conviction, and the judge's words hit a sensitive nerve among senior SFO lawyers.

Philip Barden, a partner at the London law firm Devonshires, is representing the compensated solicitor, who cannot be named because of an ongoing but unrelated investigation. He likened the SFO's investigation to that of the Spanish Inquisition. The SFO were acting as junior partner in a fraud inquiry carried out by the FBI.

Mr Barden comments: "I was left in an impossible position. As a result of that, I have a very dim view of the SFO, as does my client. We were highly motivated to get damages."

The wrongly accused solicitor won £12,500, and a law firm that was also raided received £15,000. Costs, which are to be paid by the SFO, are likely to be in excess of £200,000, a

record sum for a case of this kind. Now the SFO has launched a full, independent inquiry into what went wrong.

In recent years, the SFO has been under pressure to get convictions, while at the same time its annual budget has been cut from £21m five years ago to just £16m this year. There is now more pressure on a smaller number of senior officers to achieve results. Under the former SFO director, George Staple, the organisation underwent a significant restructuring. Integrated operation divisions were created, comprising lawyers, financial investigators and support staff. Under these conditions it is easy to see how senior SFO lawyers – knowing that they are being scrutinised by a new Labour government keen to be seen to be tough on crime in the City – may become heavy-handed with solicitors who they suspect to be guilty of frustrating their investigations.

Barden says that there is now a worrying trend emerging at the SFO, where some case officers have adopted bullying tactics against solicitors. He has also detected an over-willingness to apply for Section 2 warrants to raid solicitors' premises when ordinary Section 2



George Staple oversaw the restructuring of the SFO

notices would deliver documents just as easily.

Lee Goldsmith, a solicitor at the London law firm Goldsmiths, represented the law firm raided by the SFO in this case, and also persuaded the High Court in a previous case to quash a Section 2 warrant issued against a non-solicitor client. He said that to say to the magistrate that the law firm would destroy the documents if they had notice of the investigation was "staggering".

Goldsmith argues that it is much

more "glamorous and exciting to rush off on behalf of the American government" and get a search warrant to raid a law firm than it is to serve a notice asking for specified documents. "The danger of it is that it shows a cavalier approach, that they would rather bit you and ask questions later," he says.

Robert Wardle, an assistant director at the SFO, does not believe that bullying is used as a tactic against solicitors, or that SFO lawyers have a lack of respect for legal professional privilege.

"Issues of confidentiality or legal professional privilege," says Mr Wardle, "are resolved by agreement with solicitors." He adds: "In order to obtain a warrant to search a solicitor's office we have to satisfy a magistrate that the service of a notice under Section 2 might seriously prejudice the investigation." He says that only a handful of such warrants are granted each year.

Mr Wardle denies that there is a link between the reduction of the SFO's budget and any heavy-handed treatment of solicitors. He comments: "Although the SFO budget has been reduced, we concentrate our reduced budget on operational staff, and I do not accept that any

one has been prejudiced by the SFO taking short cuts."

Mr Goldsmith says: "My own view is that there is a cavalier attitude which makes them feel omnipotent. If it is very easy to go before a magistrate and get a search warrant, then you inevitably become more lachrymose about it."

George Staple, the former SFO director who stood down last year, argues that the SFO is careful to follow the rules but that "occasionally, things go wrong". He says that during his tenure, there was a good working relationship with solicitors: "These are difficult and complicated inquiries. The element of surprise is sometimes important and you have to be extremely careful that it is approached in a professional way." Complaints made against SFO officers when Mr Staple was in office were rare. But during the SFO investigation into the copper scandal, SFO officers were found to have breached a court injunction although an allegation of contempt of court was not upheld.

Mr Staple says: "If the changes that I put in place are pursued, then I have every reason to think that the SFO will have a successful future."

Many lawyers remain unconvinced. Mr Barden favours privatising the service: "If you put it out to tender, and looked at its cost-effectiveness, you would soon see an end to the belligerent attitudes."



## HARROW

**SAFARI CINEMA** (0181-426 0303)  
Harrow-on-the-Hill/Harrow & Wealdstone  
Major Saab 1.30pm, 5pm, 8.45pm  
Satya 8.45pm

**WARNER VILLAGE** (0181-427 9000)  
Harrow-on-the-Hill City of Angels  
1.30pm, 3.30pm, 6.30pm, 9.30pm  
11.30pm Deep Impact 1pm, 3.30pm, 5.50pm, 8.30pm Grease (20th Anniversary Edition) 2.15pm, 3.40pm, 6.05pm, 8.40pm, 11.10pm Mimic 2.50pm, 5.20pm, 7.20pm, 9.30pm, 11.40pm The Object of My Affection 1.50pm, 4.10pm, 6.30pm, 8.50pm The Replacement Killers 11.25pm Screen 2 11.10pm Six Days, Seven Nights 2pm, 4.20pm, 6.50pm, 9.20pm, 11.30pm Sliding Doors 2.40pm, 4.50pm, 7pm, 9.10pm Soul Food 1.40pm, 4.30pm, 7.10pm The Wedding Singer 1.15pm, 3.30pm, 5.55pm, 8.20pm, 10.30pm

**HOLLOWAY**  
ODEON (0181-315 4213) Holloway Road/Archway City of Angels 1.40pm, 4.35pm, 7.10pm, 9.45pm Mimic 1.50pm, 7.25pm The Object of My Affection 4pm, 8.40pm Six Days, Seven Nights 2.30pm, 5.10pm, 7.30pm, 9.55pm

**ILFORD**  
ODEON (0181-315 4223) Gants Hill City of Angels 1.20pm, 2.40pm, 6pm, 8.30pm Deep Impact 1pm, 5.55pm Mimic 1.10pm, 2.50pm, 5.30pm, 8pm House of Mirth 11.20pm Six Days, Seven Nights 1.30pm, 3.50pm, 6.10pm, 8.40pm Sliding Doors 3.25pm, 6.15pm The Wedding Singer 1.20pm, 3.40pm, 6pm, 8.30pm

**KINGSTON**  
ABC OPTIONS (0870-9020409) BR Kingston City of Angels 1.40pm, 4.50pm, 8.20pm The Object of My Affection 2.15pm, 5.40pm, 8.15pm Six Days, Seven Nights 2.30pm, 6pm, 8.25pm

**MUSWELL HILL**  
ODEON (0181-315 4217) Highgate City of Angels 1.30pm, 3.50pm, 6.10pm, 8.30pm The Object of My Affection 1.40pm, 4pm, 6.15pm, 8.35pm Six Days, Seven Nights 2.20pm, 4.30pm, 6.40pm, 8.55pm

**PECKHAM**  
PREMIER (0181-235 3006) BR Peckham Rye City of Angels 1.40pm, 6.30pm, 8.50pm Grease (20th Anniversary Edition) 4pm, 6.30pm, 8.55pm, 11.20pm Mimic 3.55pm, 6.05pm, 8.45pm, 11.15pm The Object of My Affection 4.05pm, 6.30pm, 8.45pm The Replacement Killers 11.55pm Six Days, Seven Nights 4.30pm, 6.45pm, 9.10pm, 11.25pm Soul Food 3.50pm, 6.25pm, 8.50pm, 11.20pm Wishmaster 11.50pm

**PURLEY**  
ABC (0870-9020407) BR Purley The Object of My Affection 2.40pm, 5.40pm, 8.30pm Six Days, Seven Nights 2.10pm, 5.10pm, 8.10pm Sliding Doors 2.50pm, 5.50pm, 8.40pm

**PUTNEY**  
ABC (0870-9020401) Putney Bridge City of Angels 2pm, 4.30pm, 7pm, 9.30pm The Object of My Affection 2pm, 7pm Six Days, Seven Nights 2.15pm, 4.45pm, 7.15pm, 9.45pm The Wedding Singer 4.30pm, 9.30pm

**RICHMOND**  
ODEON STUDIO (0181-315 4218) BR Richmond City of Angels 1.10pm, 3.50pm, 6.30pm, 9pm The Object of My Affection 1.10pm, 3.40pm, 6.40pm, 9.10pm Six Days, Seven Nights 1.40pm, 4.10pm, 6.50pm, 9.20pm The Wedding Singer 1.30pm, 4pm, 7pm, 9.30pm

**ROMFORD**  
ABC (0870-9020419) BR Romford City of Angels 2.25pm, 5.40pm, 8.15pm Grease (20th Anniversary Edition) 2.20pm, 5.50pm, 8.20pm Six Days, Seven Nights 2.10pm, 6.05pm, 8.30pm

**ODEON LIBERTY 2** (01708-729040) BR Romford City of Angels 1.20pm, 4pm, 6.45pm, 9.15pm Deep Impact 12.45pm, 3.20pm, 6.10pm, 8.50pm Grease (20th Anniversary Edition) 1pm, 3.30pm, 6pm, 8.30pm Mimic 12.10pm, 2.25pm, 4.40pm, 7pm, 9.10pm The Object of My Affection 2.15pm, 4.30pm, 6.50pm, 9.10pm Six Days, Seven Nights 1.45pm, 4.10pm, 6.30pm, 8.50pm, 11.30pm Soul Food 11pm The Wedding Singer 1.30pm, 3.40pm, 6.20pm, 8.40pm

**SIDCUP**  
ABC (0541-555131) BR Sidcup City of Angels 2.20pm, 5.20pm, 8.20pm Six Days, Seven Nights 2.30pm, 5pm, 8.30pm

**STAPLES CORNER**  
VIRGIN (0870-3070717) BR Cricklewood City of Angels 1.30pm, 5.30pm, 8.20pm, 11pm Grease (20th Anniversary Edition) 2.45pm, 5.30pm, 8.15pm, 11pm Mimic 2.15pm, 4.30pm, 6.45pm, 9.15pm, 11.30pm The Object of My Affection 2.15pm, 5.15pm, 8.30pm Six Days, Seven Nights 1.45pm, 4.15pm, 6.30pm, 9pm, 11.30pm Soul Food 11pm The Wedding Singer 2pm, 5.20pm, 8pm, 11pm

**STREATHAM**  
ABC (0870-9020415) BR Streatham Hill City of Angels 2.30pm, 5.55pm, 8.40pm Grease (20th Anniversary Edition) 2.15pm, 5.45pm, 8.30pm Sliding Doors 2.25pm, 5.35pm, 8.45pm

**ODEON (0181-315 4219)** BR Streatham Hill City of Angels 1.30pm, 5.30pm, 8.20pm, 11pm Grease (20th Anniversary Edition) 2.45pm, 5.30pm, 8.15pm, 11pm Mimic 2.15pm, 4.30pm, 6.45pm, 9.15pm, 11.30pm The Object of My Affection 2.15pm, 5.15pm, 8.30pm Six Days, Seven Nights 1.45pm, 4.15pm, 6.30pm, 9pm, 11.30pm Soul Food 11pm The Wedding Singer 2pm, 5.20pm, 8pm, 11pm

**STRATFORD**  
NEW STRATFORD PICTURE HOUSE (555 3366) BR Stratford East City of Angels 3.55pm, 9pm The Girl With the Dragon Tattoo 1.30pm, 6.50pm Girls' Night 1.30pm, 6.30pm Grease (20th Anniversary Edition) 1.40pm, 4.10pm, 6.30pm, 9.10pm The Object of My Affection 4.20pm, 6.50pm Six Days, Seven Nights 2.15pm, 4.35pm, 6.55pm, 9.15pm

## SUTTON

UCI B (0890-888930) Morden City of Angels 4.15pm, 6.45pm, 9.15pm, 11.45pm Grease (20th Anniversary Edition) 4pm, 6.30pm, 9pm, 11.30pm Mimic 9.45pm, 12.15pm The Object of My Affection 4.45pm, 7.15pm

**TURNPIKE LANE**  
CORONET (0181-888 2519)  
Turnpike Lane Grease (20th Anniversary Edition) 3.50pm, 6.20pm, 8.30pm Mimic 3.40pm, 5.55pm, 8.20pm Six Days, Seven Nights 3.45pm, 6.20pm, 8.40pm

**UXBRIDGE**  
ODEON (01895-813139) Uxbridge City of Angels 3.15pm, 6.35pm, 9.15pm The Man Who Knew Too Little 1.10pm, 3.40pm, 6.10pm, 8.40pm Six Days, Seven Nights 1.20pm, 4.35pm, 6.55pm, 9.25pm

**WALTHAMSTOW**  
ABC (0870-9020424) Walthamstow Central Mimic 1.25pm, 3.40pm, 6.15pm, 8.40pm The Object of My Affection 1.20pm, 3.40pm, 6pm, 8.20pm Six Days, Seven Nights 1.45pm, 4pm, 6.15pm, 8.30pm

**WALTON ON THAMES**  
THE SCREEN AT WALTON (01932-252825) BR Walton on Thames Grease (20th Anniversary Edition) 3.05pm, 6.05pm, 8.25pm Six Days, Seven Nights 3.45pm, 6.30pm, 8.45pm

**WELL HALL**  
CORONET (0181-850 3351) BR Ebbw Vale City of Angels 1.40pm, 6.10pm, 8.30pm Six Days, Seven Nights 3.45pm, 6.20pm, 8.40pm

**WILLESDEN**  
BELLE-VUE (0181-830 0822)  
Willesden Green City of Angels 4pm, 6.30pm, 9pm

**WIMBLEDON**  
ODEON (0181-315 4222) BR Wimbledon City of Angels 1.30pm, 3.30pm, 6pm, 8.30pm Grease (20th Anniversary Edition) 1pm, 3.30pm, 6.00pm, 8.30pm, 11.15pm Mimic 11.20pm The Object of My Affection 1.10pm, 3.30pm, 6pm, 8.30pm Six Days, Seven Nights 1.30pm, 3.50pm, 6.15pm, 8.40pm, 11.15pm Sliding Doors 5pm, 9.20pm The Wedding Singer 1pm, 3pm, 7.15pm, 11.35pm

**WOODFORD**  
ABC (0181-989 3463) BR South Woodford City of Angels 1.15pm, 3.40pm, 6pm, 8.25pm The Object of My Affection 1.15pm, 3.40pm, 6.10pm, 8.30pm Six Days, Seven Nights 1.30pm, 3.50pm, 6.15pm, 8.35pm

**WOOLWICH**  
CORONET (0181-854 5043) BR Woolwich Arsenal Grease (20th Anniversary Edition) 3.50pm, 6.20pm, 8.35pm Six Days, Seven Nights 3.45pm, 6.20pm, 8.40pm

CINEMA  
REPERTORY

**LONDON**  
CINE LUMIERE AT THE  
INSTITUT FRANCAIS Queensberry  
Place SW7 (0171-838 2144/2146)  
Gadjo Olio (15) 7.30pm

**ICA** The Mall SW1 (0171-930 3647)  
Borowczyk Animated Shorts 1 (NC)  
6.30pm Borowczyk Animated Shorts  
2 (NC) 8.30pm

**THE LUX** Hudson Square N1 (0171-684 0201) Avant Garde Film and  
Video: Bosola And Harzegovina:  
Programme 1 (NC) 7pm Avant Garde  
Film And Video: Bosola And Harzegovina:  
Programme 2 (NC) 9pm

**NFT** South Bank SE1 (0171-633 0274) cc 928 3232 Three Men And  
Lillian (NC) 2.30pm Naked (18) 8.30pm  
Cattiki, The Immortal Monster:  
Fantasie Mario Bava (NC) 8.45pm The  
Butcher Boy (15) 6.30pm

**PEPSI IMAX** The Trocadero, Piccadilly  
Circus W1 (0171-494 4153)  
Across the Sea of Time - A New York  
Adventure (3-D) (U) 11am, 1.05pm,  
5.20pm LS-City in Space (NC)  
12.20pm, 2.15pm, 4.25pm, 7.30pm,  
8.20pm Everest (U) 3.20pm, 6.30pm

**PRINCE CHARLES** Leicester Place  
WC2 (0171-437 8181) Afterglow (18)  
4pm Breakdown (15) 6.30pm  
Battica (15) 9pm The Rocky Horror  
Picture Show (15) 11.45pm

**RIVERSIDE STUDIOS** Clisp Road  
W9 (0181-237 1111) cc 420 0100  
Pictures Of The Old World/Funny  
Games (18) 6pm Funny Games (18)  
8pm

**WATRAMANS ARTS CENTRE**  
High Street (0181-568 1176) City of  
Angels (12) 1.30pm, 9pm Lolita (18)  
6.30pm

**BRISTOL**  
WATERSHED (0117-925 3645)  
Love And Death On Long Island (18)  
6pm, 8.15pm Journey To The  
Beginning Of The World (Viagem ao  
Principio do Mundo) (U)  
6.05pm, 8pm

**CAMBRIDGE**  
ARTS CENTRE (01223-504444)  
Love And Death On Long Island (18)  
2.45pm, 5.30pm Afterglow (15) 4.50pm  
Saut Coustou (18) 7.10pm

**CARDIFF**  
CHAPTER ARTS CENTRE  
10122-399666 Jackie Brown (15)  
6.15pm The Real Blonde (15) 7.30pm  
Love And Death On Long Island (18)  
8pm

**CHICHESTER**  
NEW PARK FILM CENTRE  
101243-786500 Mrs Brown (PG)  
2.15pm Titofic (12) 4.45pm  
Washington Square (PG) 9pm

**IPSWICH**  
IPSWICH FILM THEATRE  
101473-215544 My Son The Fanatic  
(15) 6pm Shall We Dance? (PG) 8pm

**NORWICH**  
CINEMA CITY (01603-622047)  
Way The Dog (15) 5.45pm Live Flesh  
(18) 8pm Reging Bull (18) 11.15pm

THEATRE  
WEST END

Ticket availability details are for today;  
times and prices for the week running  
times include intervals. ● — Seats at all  
prices ● — Seats at some prices ● —  
Returns only Matinees — (1): Sun, (2):  
Tue, (4): Wed, (5): Thu, (6): Fri, (7): Sat

**ANIMAL CRACKERS** Three  
actors recreate the wild antics of the Marx  
Brothers. Barbican Sculpture Court Silk  
Street, EC2 (0171-638 4141) ● Barbican/Moorgate, Mon-Sat 7.30pm, [5] 7.20pm, [7] 2.30pm, [6] 2.20pm, [7] 2.10pm, [7] 2.00pm, [7] 1.50pm, [7] 1.40pm, [7] 1.30pm, [7] 1.20pm, [7] 1.10pm, [7] 1.00pm, [7] 9.50pm, [7] 9.40pm, [7] 9.30pm, [7] 9.20pm, [7] 9.10pm, [7] 9.00pm, [7] 8.50pm, [7] 8.40pm, [7] 8.30pm, [7] 8.20pm, [7] 8.10pm, [7] 8.00pm, [7] 7.50pm, [7] 7.40pm, [7] 7.30pm, [7] 7.20pm, [7] 7.10pm, [7] 7.00pm, [7] 6.50pm, [7] 6.40pm, [7] 6.30pm, [7] 6.20pm, [7] 6.10pm, [7] 6.00pm, [7] 5.50pm, [7] 5.40pm, [7] 5.30pm, [7] 5.20pm, [7] 5.10pm, [7] 5.00pm, [7] 4.50pm, [7] 4.40pm, [7] 4.30pm, [7] 4.20pm, [7] 4.10pm, [7] 4.00pm, [7] 3.50pm, [7] 3.40pm, [7] 3.30pm, [7] 3.20pm, [7] 3.10pm, [7] 3.00pm, [7] 2.50pm, [7] 2.40pm, [7] 2.30pm, [7] 2.20pm, [7] 2.10pm, [7] 2.00pm, [7] 1.50pm, [7] 1.40pm, [7] 1.30pm, [7] 1.20pm, [7] 1.10pm, [7] 1.00pm, [7] 9.50pm, [7] 9.40pm, [7] 9.30pm, [7] 9.20pm, [7] 9.10pm, [7] 9.00pm, [7] 8.50pm, [7] 8.40pm, [7] 8.30pm, [7] 8.20pm, [7] 8.10pm, [7] 8.00pm, [7] 7.50pm, 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# FRIDAY RADIO

## PICK OF THE DAY

A WEEK of Sound Stories (11am R3) devoted to novelists and music ends with James Joyce (right). The contrast between the work he was inspired by - his tastes seem to have verged on the kitsch - and the experimental music that his work inspired could not be more stark: the result is an enjoyably eclectic programme, ranging from the Victorian parlour symphony of 'Just a Song at Twilight' to Luciano

Berio's gorgeously impenetrable *Chamber Music*. Robert Smith's comedy *Love, Pray and Do the Dishes* (11.30am R4 FM) begins well, with a priest being interrupted in the middle of mass when his mobile phone rings. It turns out to be God, bringing a well-timed thunderclap by way of credentials and announcing the date of Judgement Day. Downhill after that, but it would have to be, really. ROBERT HANKS



## RADIO 5 LIVE

(693, 909kHz MW)  
6.00 The Breakfast Programme.  
9.00 Nicky Campbell.  
12.00 The Midday News.  
1.00 Wimbledon and World Cup.  
7.55 World Cup 98. Ian Payne introduces commentary from Nantes on the second World Cup quarter-final.  
10.00 Late Night Live. Insight and comment on the day's big issues with Brian Hayes. Including Papertalk, 10.30 sport round-up, 11.00 the late night news, and 11.15 The Financial World Tonight.  
1.00 Up All Night.  
5.00 - 6.00 Morning Reports.

## CLASSIC FM

(100.0-101.9MHz FM)  
6.00 Michael Mappin. 8.00 Henry Kelly. 12.00 Requests. 2.00 Concerto. 3.00 Jamie Cullum. 6.30 Newsnight. 7.00 Smooth Classics at Seven. 9.00 Evening Concert. 11.00 Alan Marr. 2.00 Concerto. 3.00 - 6.00 Mark Griffiths.

## VIRGIN RADIO

(125, 187-128.0kHz MW 105.8MHz FM)  
7.00 Chris Evans. 10.00 Russ Williams. 10.00 Nick Abbot. 4.00 Robin Banks. 7.00 Johnny Boy's Wheels of Steel. 11.00 Janey Lee Grace. 2.00 Howard Pearce.

## WORLD SERVICE

(198kHz LW)  
1.00 Newsdesk. 1.30 From the Weeklies. 1.45 Britain Today. 2.00 Newsdesk. 2.30 Songs of Home. 2.45 Short Story. 3.00 Newsday. 3.30 People and Politics. 4.00 World News. 4.05 World Business Report. 4.15 Sports Roundup. 4.30 Weekend/Insight (SW 5875kHz only). 4.45 Off the Shelf: A Simple Heart (SW 5875 KHz Only). 5.00 Newsday. 5.30 Outlook. 5.55 - 6.00 Spotlight.

## TALK RADIO

6.30 The New Talk Radio. Breakfast Show Kirsty Young with Bill Overton. 9.00 Scott Chisholm. 12.00 Lorraine Kelly. 2.00 Tommy Boyd. 4.00 Peter Deeley. 7.00 Moz Dee. 10.00 Mike Allen. 1.00 Mike Allen. 2.00 Mike Dickin.

violence is part of American heritage, a Californian who feels the real America has moved on to the internet, and a New York presenter who only makes TV about TV.

9.40 American Blues. Pianists Joanna MacGregor and Eric Parkin play blues music by Nancarrow, Copland and Erroll Garner.

10.00 Hear and Now. The Bath Festival's recent contemporary music weekend focussed on the string quartet. Verity Sharp talks to composers and performers and introduces four works played by the Arditi Quartet. Thomas Ades: Arcadiana. Jonathan Harvey: String Quartet No 3. Luca Francesconi: String Quartet No 3 (Mirrors) (first UK performance).

11.30 Bright Size Life. 12.00 Composer of the Week: C P E Bach. (R)

1.00 - 6.00 Through the Night. RADIO 4 (92.4-94.6MHz FM)

6.00 Today. 9.00 Desert Island Discs. 9.45 Serial: The Doctor, the Detective and Arthur Conan Doyle.

10.00 NEWS: Woman's Hour. 11.00 NEWS: Health for a Nation. 11.30 Love, Pray and Do the Dishes. See Pick of the Day.

12.00 NEWS: You and Yours. 12.57 Weather. 1.00 The World at One. 1.30 Who Goes There. 2.00 NEWS: The Archers.

2.15 Afternoon Play: The Bomb Damage Sale Wedding Dress. 3.00 NEWS: Veg Talk (0171) 580 4444.

3.30 Elementary My Dear Rankin. 3.45 The Radio Man. 4.00 NEWS: Open Book. 4.30 The Message. 5.00 PM.

6.00 Six O'Clock News. 6.30 In the Chair. 7.00 NEWS: The Archers. 7.15 Front Row. Mark Lawson offers another instalment of his guide to this summer's essential books.

7.45 Under One Roof: Under Pressure. By Mike Walker, based on the story by Michele Hanson. Gillian attempts to restore the art of conversation by disconnecting the family television. With Paolo Donisotti, Edna Doré, Luisa Bradshaw-Wall and Irene Sutcliffe. Director Cathryn Horn (5/5).

8.00 NEWS: Any Questions? Jonathan Dimbleby is joined in Chartley, Surrey, by panellists Anne Atkins, journalist and author, Frank Dobson, Secretary of State for Health; Michael Moore, Liberal Democrat spokesman for Scottish affairs; and David Willetts, shadow Secretary of State for Education and Employment.

8.45 Letter from America. Alistair Cooke with another slice of Americana. 9.00 NEWS: The Friday Play: King of the Blues. By Neil Donnelly. It is the summer of '96. As Dubliner Michael Blaney drives to a Van

Morrison gig at Wembley with his partner Karen, he is reminded both of his childhood in Ireland and of how he met Karen in London in the late '70s. Gradually matters come to a head - not only with Karen, but with Van as well. With Eamon Morrissey and Felicity Dean. Director Roland Jauregui.

10.00 The World Tonight. 10.45 Book at Bedtime: Scarlet and Black. By Stendhal, abridged by Michaelene Wandor, read by Greg Wise. Julian finally achieves nationwide fame - or infamy - and discovers true love. The law will decide his life or death (10/10). (R)

11.00 Late Tackle. Actor and comedian Gordon Kennedy and writer Julie Welch join Martin Bashir for some late-night sports conversation.

11.30 The Circuit. 12.00 News. 12.30 The Late Book: Bombay Ice. 12.48 Shipping Forecast. 1.00 As World Service. 5.30 World News. 5.35 Shipping Forecast. 5.40 Inshore Forecast. 5.45 Prayer for the Day. 5.47 Leisure Report. 5.56 - 6.00 Weather.

RADIO 4 LW (94.5kHz) 9.45 - 10.00 An Act of Worship. 11.00 Test Match Special. 12.00 News: Shipping Forecast. 12.04 - 1.00 Test Match Special. 1.30 Test Match Special. 5.54 Shipping Forecast. 5.57 - 6.30 Test Match Special. 11.30 - 6.00 Parliament.

# SATELLITE AND CABLE

## PICK OF THE DAY

THE KNACK of Leslie Nielsen (right) as a comic performer is that he never lets it slip that he thinks the material is funny - he is a past master at keeping a straight face. Think of his wonderfully deadpan performances as Lieutenant Frank Drebin in *Police Squad*. He's at it again in Mel Brooks's comic reworking of the Dracula myth, *Dracula: Dead and Loving It* (9pm Sky Movies Screen 1, right), receiving its satellite

premiere tonight. National Geographic devotes an evening to wildlife programming tonight. The highlight of *Friday Night Wildlife* should be *Dead on Arrival: the Wild Parrot* (10.30pm), which demonstrates that it is not only drugs which are smuggled out of South America. There is also a flourishing illegal trade in creatures, such as the blue-front Amazonian parrot. JAMES RAMPTON



## SKY MOVIES SCREEN 1

1.00 The Blue Bird (1976) (35338). 1.00 The President's Analyst (1967) (4116). 10.00 My Ghost Dog (1997) (40796). 11.30 Spy Hard (1996) (79357). 1.00 Phase IV (1974) (65796). 3.00 Anas (1995) (4070970). 4.45 My Ghost Dog (1997) (40796). 6.45 Balto (1995) (721538). 7.30 Spy Hard (1996) (79357). 9.40 Dracula: Dead and Loving It (1999) See Pick of the Day. 10.30 The Movie Show. 11.00 Married People. Single Sex 2 (1995) (355703). 12.45 Jeffrey (1995) (770029). 2.20 Critical Choices (1996) (4770075). 3.50 - 6.00 Cross My Heart (1987) (56059723).

## SKY MOVIES SCREEN 2

1.00 The Bandit of Sherwood Forest (1946) (26680). 8.00 In the Line of Duty: Smoke Jumpers (1996) (72086). 10.00 The Family Jewels (1963) (32838). 12.00 Tears Adrift (1996) (65609). 2.00 The Land of Sherwood Forest (1946) (34406). 4.00 The Family Jewels (1963) (32838). 6.00 Hearts Adrift (1996) (33999). 7.30 UK Top Ten (4357). 10.00 Last Dance (1996) (504425). 11.45 Co-ed All Girl (1995) (67245). 2.55 Down, Out and Dangerous (1995) (589487). 3.0 - 6.00 In the Line of Duty: Smoke Jumpers (1996) (72086).

## KY MOVIES GOLD

1.00 Dad (1989) (2276970). 6.00 Baby on Fire (1991) (293338). 8.00 Jaws 3 (1983) (2945777). 10.00 Another 48 Hrs (1990) (5640628). 11.35 Lenny Love and Reshaped (1989) (9968881). 1.15 A Juch of Zen (1996) (3805498). 4.30 The Redneck Manifesto (1949) (19348704). 5.30 Close.

## RAVO

1.00 The A-Team (1984-2003). 8.00 Real Tones of the Highway Patrol (1947-79). 9.00 Cope (1984-14). 10.00 Italian Trapping Houses (1985-86). 10.30 World Cup Undercover (1986-88). 11.00 The Bravos: Slave Girls from Beyond Infinity (1987) (5543425). 1.00 every Hills Bordeaux (1940-41). 1.30 The Bravos: The Outdoorsmen (1987-7). 3.30 Twisted (1954-53). 4.00 every Hills Bordeaux (1977-78). 4.30 Alan Stripping Housewives (1982-78). 5.00 - 6.00 The A-Team (1984-2003).

## DISCOVERY CHANNEL

1.00 Fox Hunts Fishing Adventures I (1994-25). 4.30 Zoo Story (1993-5009).

## SKY 1

7.00 Tattooed Teenage Alien Fighters from Beverly Hills (1975). 7.30 Games World (1980-06). 7.45 The Simpsons (1975). 8.45 The Oprah Winfrey Show (1987-22). 9.00 Hotel (1985). 10.00 Another World (1983). 11.00 Days of Our Lives (1997). 12.00 Married with Children (1972-22). 12.30 M\*A\*S\*H (1974-81). 12.45 The Special K Collection (1988-715). 1.00 Gerald (1988-338). 1.55 The Special K Collection (1988-828).

2.00 Sally Jessy Raphael (1987-77). 2.55 The Special K Collection (1988-818). 3.00 Jerry Jones (1989-91). 3.55 The Special K Collection (1988-818). 4.00 The Oprah Winfrey Show (1987-77). 4.30 Star Trek: Voyager (1993). 5.00 The Nanny (1983). 6.30 Married with Children (1975). 7.00 The Simpsons (1975). 7.30 The Simpsons (1975). 8.00 Highlander (1989). 9.00 Walker, Texas Ranger (1992). 10.00 Friends (1995). 11.00 Star Trek: Voyager (1993). 12.00 Nash Bridges (1996). 1.00 - 7.00 Long Play (1984-075).

## SKY SPORTS 1

7.00 Sky Sports Centre (1993-086). 7.45 Wheelbase (1996). 8.45 Sky Sports Centre (1993-086). 9.30 Rading News (1993-086). 10.30 Aerobics - Oz Style (1993-086). 11.30 Trans World Sport (1993-086). 12.30 Formula Three Racing (1993-086). 1.00 Aerobics - Oz Style (1993-086). 2.00 Wheelbase (1996). 3.00 Futbol Mundial (1993-086). 4.00 Euro Tour Golf - Murphy's Irish Open (1993-086). 5.00 Sky Sports Centre (1993-086). 6.00 Sky Sports Centre (1993-086). 7.00 Sky Sports Centre (1993-086). 8.00 Sky Sports Centre (1993-086). 9.00 Sky Sports Centre (1993-086). 10.00 Sky Sports Centre (1993-086). 11.00 Sky Sports Centre (1993-086). 12.00 Sky Sports Centre (1993-086). 1.00 Sky Sports Centre (1993-086). 2.00 Sky Sports Centre (1993-086). 3.00 Sky Sports Centre (1993-086). 4.00 Sky Sports Centre (1993-086). 5.00 Sky Sports Centre (1993-086). 6.00 Sky Sports Centre (1993-086). 7.00 Sky Sports Centre (1993-086). 8.00 Sky Sports Centre (1993-086). 9.00 Sky Sports Centre (1993-086). 10.00 Sky Sports 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**"ALL WOMEN are traitors."**

"ALL WOMEN ARE INFELIX..." That's why feminism will never work," observed a small man in the first episode of *Big Men* (C4). I imagine Roy Weldon might find a certain rural pleasure in this line, having just been subjected to the media equivalent of a medical attack for 'her remains' about rape. But then, she *is* a rape victim, regarded as a victim anyway, not least for the fact that she could include a line like this and decline to erect a warning sign in front of it, reading "Ridley Chelmsford – Disregard All Statements". As it happens, the man is a chauvinist – obviously, clearing the decks for his wife's Primrose Hill consciousness-raising sessions, but only so that he can have sex with post-1960s wives whose sexual attitudes respect the minimum height requirement. But the harassed and opportunistic scepticism looks positively enlightened when set alongside Brian – a backsliding caricature of Aussie male reaction. Anything in feminist with his fiancée, Brian is baffled by the fly-posters reading "a woman without a man is like a fish without a bicycle" and disturbed by the thought that Rupert the Bear might have had sex – "It's total hell", he says disqu coastly as he yells about the Oz trial.<sup>2</sup>

worldwide lapidism of permissiveness".

There are a lot of unstable pleasures, too – say, Weldon's style involving a *four-zaf* simplicity which could easily be mistaken for dramatic incompetence, particularly given television's addiction to naturalism. In the introductory episode in particular, the characters are far more explicit about their ideological positions than anyone would be in life, even allowing for the fact that a soapbox was once fairly a somewhat more fashionable accessory. But this crudity of exposition is intentional. I think, just as the overplays between offscreen voice and onscreen action have a deliriousness about them, "some weaker women will then show in the persuasion that sisterhood is a better path to survival than belated,"<sup>3</sup> announces the mostly earnest Alice as we watch Just how fast Dilly can be persuaded of the exact opposite. In this respect, the drama is like a gyroscope – graphic and loud and readable from a good distance. But it isn't dull or unambiguous – and it promises to weather well over the weeks to come.

More sisterhood and exact simplicity in *Women's Free* (ITV). Andrea Newman's new drama of sex and betrayal, which has learned the lesson that if you wish to offend your bookreader with a solvent undertow, then you should gaily in an early reference to gay

The other man in this first episode would probably agree with him. The implacably trained Bull, marital oppressor of Zoe and beastly-hoarse representative of male rage, turns up at the house as the group are celebrating their womanhood with a meal becalmed in the front room – a scene which has aroused quite a bit of excited talk about permissiveness itself, but which turned out to be about as erudite as a midlist colony lake-terms tournament. That was the point, incidentally, Weldon being fully aware of the inimitable combination of silliness and exuberance which the Incident is meant to convey. Looking back almost angrily, involves looking down, however elevated spirits were at the time – and one of the sabbier pleasures of this series is the way in which it manages to capture the extirmination of youth (or youthful cleanness) without idealising the acquiescent knowledge of age.

As Amanda, the unruly saleswoman who has been left uncompensated for her sister's infidelity says "She's like the princess in *'E.T.'*" ("It's as if she's been waiting for me to wake her up," says Irving, lower an enigmatic dealer who has supplanted her with some rather implicitly antiqye crafts far from beads - decorative with serene faces, its eyes which occasionally glow in a ludicrously portentous cismene).

The best thing in the series is Lie Williams, who plays the unnamed and undovered daughter – in the shadow of her younger, more beautiful, more successful sister. It's a clever piece of casting because Williams has the ability to flicker between sweetness and altness, a capacity which the *Melodists* reward!

Suspense is on the way. The illusion of moral depth is busted by a trick with mirrors. But I'm hooked already, while shows that I wish's spell can't operate even now you know exactly how it works.

There are a lot of unsuitable pleasures, too – say, Melinda's shifts involving a four-carz simplicity which could easily be mistaken for dramatic incompetence, particularly given television's edification to misadventure. In this introduction episode in particular, the characters are far more explicit about their ideologies, positions than anyone would be in, even allowing for the fact that a soapbox was the early Seventies' most fashionable accessory. But this crumb of exposition is intentional. I think, just as the overlays and onscreen evidence have alerted audiences about them, the characters about themselves. "Some weaker women will show in the pedestrian than sit at a table and be a better path to survival than selection," announces the mostly earnest Alice as we watch her fastidiously eat. "I can't do this. Daily can be persisted of the exact opposite, in this respect, the drama is like a flyover – a graphic and total and readily from a good distance. But it isn't that or unmanageable, it, I promise to weather well over the weeks to come. More streetwise and much simpler in the end," says QT, y, Andrew Newman's new drama of sex and betrayal, which has learned the lesson that if you wish to invest your bookkeeper with a solem undertow, then you should get in an early reference to fairy tales. As Amanda, the unworldly accomplice for the sister, indignantly says "She's like the princess in a fairy tale," "It's as if she's been waiting for me to wake her up," says Imogen lover, an enigmatic dealer who has supplied her with some rather unlikely antique crafts for her twin babies – decorated with seismic beads. His eyes with audaciously glow in a judiciously portentous cinnam. The best thing in the series is Lie Williams, who plays the daughter – in the shadow of her younger, more beautiful, more successful sister. It's a clever piece of casting because Williams has the ability to flicker between business and satire, a capacity which the drama will require if it spins the Weltonian reversal. I suspect is on the way. The infusion of moral depth is just then a trick with mirrors. But then looked already, while others that which's spell can operate like a witch, you know exactly how it works.

# Channel 5

**8.00 5 News and Sport** (S) (2070727), **7.00** *WildaWorld* (S) (T) (170715), **7.30** *Miniseries* (S) (Hawke), **7.35** in the *Woods* (R) (454408), **8.00** *Havoc* (S) (2310448), **8.30** *Doppelgang* (S) (Havoc), **9.00** *Dwellers of the Deep* (R) (2327399), **9.30** *Russell Gorge* (S) (2321048), **9.30** *The Opah Wintry Show* (S) (2321048), **10.25** *Sunset Beach* (S) (T) (2002512), **11.00** *Lesz* (S) (2008777), **12.00** 5 News at Noon (S) (2321048), **12.30** *Family Affairs* (S) (T) (2647320), **1.00** *The Bad and the Beautiful* (T) (2094255), **1.30** *Stars at Daughters* (2648826), **2.00** 100 Per Cent Gold (S) (2629342), **2.30** *Open House* with Gloria Hunniford (S) (2629342).

**7.30** **ELIM** *Celebrity Jane and Sean Bese* (Georgina Sharma) 7949 US: *Prodding frontier drama in which a lesbian - played by Yvonne De Carlo - teams up with a biased Texas outlaw* (355622).

**5.05** **THE** *The Opah Wintry Show*: *Opah is joined by country singer Gabe Brown for a good one-handed guitar-strumming chit-chat* (3534624).

**8.00** **100 Per Cent**: *Gameflow when the questions out-number the viewers, there being 100 of the former about four of the latter* (S) (2291618).

**8.30** *Family Affairs*: *Poy and Duran decide to eat up business in competition to Lip Service* (S) (2354796).

**7.00 5 News, Including First on Five**: *National and International news with Kirsty Young* (S) (2570045).

**7.30** *Willie's 905*: *Honey - the for cubs have their first lead* (S) (2233029).

**8.00** **ELIM** *Only the Good Die Young* (Michael Elia) 7980 US: *Ex-Charles Angel Abely Smith is the ghastly autopsy investigator investigating the apparently accidental deaths of two long-time friends in the search for television justice. La starling raises all hypotheses that the deaths could be related to a savings account set up 20 years ago at college* (S) (3553422).

**8.30 C-16**: *American drama series about an L.A.-based FBI unit. Dierksy is as good as far as (can gather) almost goes too far in the pursuit of the duds who polished off Nick* (also a goods) (3553422).

**0.45** **ELIM** *Confessions of a Window Cleaner* (Nigel) 7981 US: *Comedy with Robin Askew with (US) 0.45*.

**12.25** **ELIM** *Performance* (Nicolas Rowe) 7970 US: *Psychological thriller about a vicious London gangster. See Film of the Day, below* (S) (2628355).

**2.25** **ELIM** *Experiment in Terror* (Brida Edwards) 7982 US: *Not-held-but atmospheric suspense* (4535670).

**4.40** *Pleasure Call Block* H (555810), **5.40** 100 Per Cent (R) (S) (318222), to dem

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